

SIMSBURY

*Being a Brief Historical
Sketch of Ancient & Modern
Simsbury* & 1642-1935

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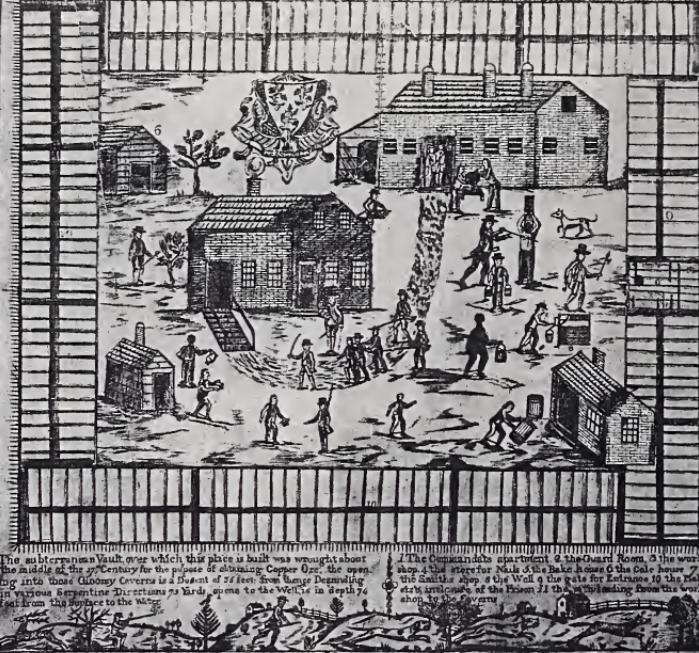
SIMSBURY

A Brief Historical Sketch

A PROSPECTIVE VIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

NEWGATE

Connecticut's STATE PRISON



The subterranean Vault over which this place is built was wrought about the middle of the 17th Century for the purpose of obtaining Copper Ores; the opening into those Grotto Caverns is a Piazza of 15 feet; from thence Descenting in various Serpentine Directions 75 Yards open to the Water in depth 74 feet from the Surface to the Water.

1 The Commandant's apartment 2 the Guard Room 3 the work
shop 4 the store for Nails & the Baking house 6 the Cellar house 7.
the Smiths shop 8 the Wall 9 the gate for Entrances 10 the Mek
stat in case of the Prison 11 the path leading from the work
shop to the factory

A RARE PRINT OF OLD NEWGATE PRISON ABOUT 1800.
A gift to the Simsbury Historical Society by Lucius W. Bigelow.

SIMS BURY

*Being a Brief Historical
Sketch of Ancient and Modern
Simsbury* © 1642-1935

BY JOHN E. ELLSWORTH



A HIGLEY COPPER

1635 · CONNECTICUT TERCENTENARY · 1935

Published by The Simsbury Committee for the Tercentenary

1935

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“CONNECTICUT”

*'Tis a rough land of earth and stone and tree,
Where breathes no castled lord or cabined slave;
Where thoughts and tongues and hands are bold and free,
And friends will find a welcome, foes a grave;
And where none kneel, when to Heaven they pray,
Not even then, unless in their own way.*

FITZ-GREENE HALLECK

¶ Foreword Containing Acknowledgments and a Description of the Documentary Sources for a History of Simsbury.

IN commemoration of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of the State of Connecticut, 1635-1935, the Simsbury Committee for the State Tercentenary Celebration authorized the publication of this historical sketch. The short space of time which was allotted for its preparation has not permitted an adequate investigation of the old records and in consequence little new research has been done. The author perforce has placed his chief reliance upon the main historical facts as presented in the two admirable works, "History of Simsbury, Granby, and Canton" by Noah A. Phelps, and "A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury" by Lucius I. Barber.

As Chairman of the Simsbury Committee on History and Publications for the Connecticut Tercentenary and as author of this history it seems fitting to make grateful acknowledgment to the rest of the committee whose cooperation and inter-

est have made this work possible: Mr. Thomas H. Desmond, Mrs. Henry E. Ellsworth, Mrs. George C. Eno, Mr. W. Floyd Hamilton, Mrs. George E. Pattison, Miss Julia E. Pattison, Mrs. Chester D. Thompson, Mr. Bradford S. Tilney, Mrs. Thomas S. Whitman.

The special assistance given by many individuals and organizations is gratefully appreciated: Mrs. George P. McLean for permission to use reproductions of portraits in her possession, the Simsbury Historical Society and the Simsbury Free Library for the reproduction of pictures in their collections, the State Library for permission to reproduce the Higley Copper and the Map of Simsbury; to Miss Julia E. Pattison for her assistance in compiling the chapter on bibliography with the cooperation she received from Mr. A. C. Bates of the Connecticut Historical Society and the staff of the State Library; to Mrs. H. E. Ellsworth for much useful information on the early land records and locations; to the ministers of the various churches and the heads of the various schools, who cheerfully furnished data on their respective institutions; to Mr. Mathias Spiess of Manchester for his valuable assistance in preparing the chapter on the Indians; to Messrs. Chester R. and Clarence W. Seymour for their aid in furnishing material on Newgate; to Mr. C. D. Thompson and Mrs. T. S. Whitman for material on early manufactures, and to Robert E. Darling, Chairman of the Finance Committee and Minor E. Stoddard, Chairman of the Publicity Committee who have given hearty cooperation.

Special mention should be made of Mrs. Alta Clifford who typed all the manuscript and Messrs. W. Floyd Hamilton and Joseph Bay, who assisted Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Ellsworth in the preparation of the map showing the Simsbury land distributions.

Without the continual helpful advice and assistance of my father, Henry E. Ellsworth, the author would never have attempted this publication. To him and the many others who

have sacrificed much time and energy in the reading of proof sincere thanks are offered. To the publishers also is due tribute for many valuable suggestions and the artistic workmanship employed.

Many people may wonder where former historians have obtained their information on the earliest life of our town. Surely it was not wholly derived from talking with old inhabitants. Perhaps it would not be amiss at this point to give a brief description of the sources for our local history and to pay a modest tribute to the wisdom and foresight of all those who, with loving care, protected our records from harm and caused them to be strengthened and preserved for the use as well as the reverence of future generations of townspeople. How the records of our towns have managed so well to escape the ravages of dampness, fire and careless handling is beyond understanding! Despite discoloration from age and a somewhat torn and tattered appearance the earliest records are distinct and easily read when one gets accustomed to the spelling and style — a tribute to the quality of ink and paper as well as the handwriting of the town clerk.

In October 1638-9 the General Court passed an act defining the powers of the towns in which it was ordered that "the several towns should each of them provide a Ledger Booke, with an Index or alphabet into the same. Also shall choose one who shall be a Towne Clerke or Register, who shall record every man's house and land,— with its bownds and quantity."

The original records of the first ten years after the town was incorporated were "burnt in part" and it became necessary to record from memory the grants of land that were not "left leagable." The loss of these records caused confusion and controversy and it became necessary in 1689 to elect a committee invested with full power "to settle all such former Grants as heave bin Burnt." John Slater was one of this committee of five men and it is believed the notations cover-

ing this period are in his handwriting as he was town clerk until his death in 1731, and being a surveyor would be well fitted for the work.

The first book is now kept in a tin case locked in a safe in the town's fireproof vault. It may be seen as a curiosity but is too precious to be used for reference. At a town meeting held in October 1900 it was voted to expend fifty dollars to have copies of books made for public use. Book 1 was completed and verified and is a great credit to the town. The work was so well done that further money was voted for the preservation of ancient records, and books 1½ and 2 were similarly copied. Book 5 which was in very bad condition was sent to Taunton, Mass. to be put in order by the Emery Process. The excellence of the work merits a visit to the town vaults to see how wonderfully the old pages have been covered with a gossamer of silk and inserted in strong paper leaves bound in heavy cloth covers, a method of preservation which permits the original record to be used without damage. Books 3 and 4 are still in fair condition and in public use. Minutes of town meetings, land records, and vital statistics are all found in the same volumes in the early records but later they were separated.

In reading these first books one is impressed by the close writing, the variations and abbreviations in spelling and the detail of the record but, sad to relate, the boundaries in most land grants were not very permanent and the measurements and directions were very crude. Names of brooks, meadows, swamps, and mountains were referred to frequently and the present effort to discover and restore them will be an invaluable aid to those who in the future have to trace the land records.

Another source of information in the Town Clerk's Office is the tax lists. Those of recent years have been bound and placed on file but those of earlier years have been stored in bundles tied with string. Recently a package was discovered

containing about twenty tax lists dating back between 1778 and 1811. Through the courtesy of the State Librarian these have been photostated and bound. The originals have been returned to the vaults of the town and copies lodged with the State Library and The Simsbury Historical Society where the public may peruse them and thus gain a picture of the possessions of our ancestors as well as the method of taxation in those early days.

The third source of information about Simsbury is to be found in the probate records now kept in a separate fire-proof vault in the office of the Judge of Probate for the Simsbury district. Records prior to 1769 were kept in the Hartford district and may be seen at the Municipal Building. Wills and distributions splendidly arranged and card-indexed are on file in the State Library in Hartford. These probate records often supply the missing links in the land records and reveal in great detail not only the personal possessions of the deceased but often shed light on their personal character as well.

School records are also to be found although they are rather incomplete up to recent years. The Historical Society has some original data regarding the building of the second and third school houses in Hop Meadow District.

The Simsbury Historical Society is rich in original sources —books, newspapers, church records, letters, pamphlets, deeds and documents of all kinds, to say nothing of furniture, household utensils, farming implements, tools, costumes and personal effects, all of which are carefully catalogued and classified. The churches, too, have their own records and the cemetery with its solemn array of stones furnishes a most reliable source of information regarding the inhabitants of Simsbury.

Maps have not been used as much as they should have been but Simsbury has one priceless possession now deposited in the safe-keeping of the State Library, a map of the town probably made in 1730. A hand-drawn copy is in the Town

Office and a photostatic copy is in the possession of the Simsbury Historical Society. Recently this society has secured a set of aerial maps made in 1934, covering most of the area of Ancient Simsbury, which are of great interest and reveal many a forgotten road and landmark.

J. E. E.

Roskear

Simsbury, June 11, 1935

SIMSBURY

A Brief Historical Sketch

I

¶ Introductory: Being a Survey of the Natural Features of the Countryside.

THE setting for our history leads us to a beautiful little Connecticut valley twelve miles northwest of Hartford and lying both sides of the winding, tree-lined Farmington River. To the east lies the Talcott Mountain range and on the west are the so-called West Mountains. To the south lies the township of Avon while the northern limits of the valley merge into the low area of the Southwick or Congamond Ponds at the Massachusetts state line. In general this area comprised Ancient Simsbury and took in the western portions of present day Bloomfield and East Granby, most of Granby, and practically all of modern Canton.

In order to understand the early history of Simsbury it is important to know the geology of the region. At one period in the geologic past the erosion of huge mountains as high as the Alps of today filled central Connecticut with layers of sediment in some places to a thickness of almost three miles. At various times during the long Triassic era lava flows occurred on top of sediment already deposited. Undoubtedly one source of supply for the lava flows in this region was the Barndoor

Hills and possibly Sugar Loaf and The Hedgehog at West Simsbury were other sources. These alternate layers of eroded rock and soil and lava or trap flows, which made a cross section of the area resemble a piece of layer cake, were later subjected to heavy faulting and a tilting or dipping towards the east. The action of streams and later of the great southward-pushing glaciers gouged out our valleys wherever the soft sedimentary rock was exposed, and left standing, as we see them at present, the long north and south ridges or mountains capped with the harder igneous trap-rock. We can observe the characteristic dipping of the sandstone strata to the east in any of our local standstone quarries and on our many trips back and forth over our mountains we surely have noticed that the western approaches to Talcott Mountain have the sheer-faced cliffs which are more difficult to ascend than the easier gradient of the eastern side.

At the same time as the tilting took place powerful geologic forces twisted the area from north to south so that we plainly see today, for example, that Talcott Mountain is not a continuous ridge but appears to be broken up into sections and that between these sections streams have forced their way making gaps such as now provide us with a passway to Hartford at Weatogue and Tariffville.

As geologic time passed and the glacial era was at hand these trap-rock ridges running north and south on the eastern and western borders of the town acted as barriers to any kind of glacial or stream flow except in a northerly or southerly direction. Hence the Farmington River originally flowed southward in nearly a straight course emptying into Long Island Sound at New Haven following the course now taken by the Quinnipiac River. Later, on the retreat of the ice, a huge dam of glacial drift or debris occurred at Plainville forming a vast lake extending for fifteen miles northward over Farmington, Avon and Simsbury. The water was unable to escape to the southward and could not break through to the east or west

until it finally found an outlet to the eastward through one of these faults that we have mentioned as occurring in Talcott Mountain. The Farmington River then followed this new course emptying into the Connecticut River at Windsor and finally cutting the deep gorge as it exists today at Tariffville.

In addition to the general features already noted the retreat of the glaciers left behind clay beds, sand plains, kames, eskers, and great deposits of loose gravel and soil known as moraines and drumlins, which give the familiar rolling appearance to the countryside of today.

All of these various geologic features were basic in determining the appearance of the landscape that greeted the eye of the first white settler in this area. The great sandy plains between Windsor and Talcott Mountain supported a dense cover of pine trees, as the sandy serpentine ridges still do throughout the Simsbury valley. The Farmington River as it flowed through the gap at Tariffville made a natural route for the Windsor people to reach the valley to the west enabling them to avoid crossing steep mountains, and the characteristic meanders of the river back and forth across the valley floor produced the richly-prized meadow lands that the whites coveted from the Indians. Many lakes and ponds and springs fed innumerable brooks that not only watered a region rich in fish and game of all descriptions, but later, under the guiding hand of man, furnished water-power at many a mill site.

The mountains and rivers were not the only factors in determining the historical growth of Ancient Simsbury. Various minerals containing copper in several forms occurred in the area, notably at Copper Hill, now Newgate, in East Granby, and it was only natural that the early settlers should discover and endeavor to mine and smelt it. The prevalence of sandstone, which was easy to work, enabled the people of the valley to utilize it in their lifetime for their buildings and at their death as their gravestones. The fertile fields, of course, produced their crops and fed their stock and the peculiar nature

of the soil made the raising of tobacco a great local industry. The heavy forests of pine gave forth their pitch, tar, and turpentine for the enrichment of the pioneer traders and furnished the great, white-pine panels that grace the quaintly beautiful interiors of so many of our old houses. The hard woods of our stony mountain sides furnished lasting timbers for homes and mills and public buildings, as the great hewn beams so seldom seen today give infrequent witness. We cannot but observe with sadness that there no longer stand in our township today pine trees of sufficient girth to produce panels of the width frequently found in our oldest homes, nor can we find oaks from which could be hewn out timbers of length and breadth comparable to those that frame our early houses, bridges, or old grist mills.

All the natural features of a frontier country were of paramount importance to the pioneer. We can see this by the names he used on the early local map: Great Pond, Great Marsh, Bare Hill, Salmon Brook, Turkey Hills, The Falls. To the early settlers rivers were not so much objects of utility and beauty as they were obstructions to be forded or, if possible, crossed by ferries or bridges. Mountains were barriers to communication, not scenic wonders. Forests provided the timber but also hid the savage and the wild beast. Particularly significant was the role played in this valley by the Farmington River. Early in history called "the Rivulet" by the Windsor people and by the Massaco settlers, "the Tunxis", this northward flowing stream could be forded only at "the Falls", now Tariffville, except in low water.

In the event of an Indian attack the only road to safety at Windsor for the Simsbury or Salmon Brook settler was through the gap at Tariffville which meant fording the river to gain the south and east bank. The escape could be made on foot or on horseback but all the home possessions of any size or weight could not be transported and were left at the mercy of the Indian. The settler on the east side did not have the

disadvantage of crossing a stream which may have been at raging flood height when passage was most imperative.

In normal peacetimes the resident at Scotland, now North Bloomfield, did not see why he should have to ford or ferry across the swollen stream at the Falls and journey the long way to Hop Meadow to attend compulsory meeting when the Hop Meadow or Weatogue settler was already on the spot. The families of West Simsbury, now Canton, did not see that it was fair for them to have to skirt or cross West Mountain and then be forced to cross the Farmington River to a meeting house located elsewhere than in Hop Meadow. The question whether the meeting house should be located on the east or west side of the river, therefore, as well as the location of ferries and bridges, was of prime importance and early in Simsbury history produced a cleavage among the people that influenced its later history and the later political divisions of its territory.

The distribution of meadow lands bordered by upland terraces and forested ridges affected the layout of highways. At first they chose the easier routes over the flatter, cleared meadows which, of course, were privately owned and farmed. Many a conflict arose over whether town roads should be located through the middle of valuable tillable meadow or should be cut through the more difficult but less valuable higher wooded ground. Most of our roads today keep to the terraces above the flood plain of the river on the west, or on the east cling closely to the hillsides where they least interrupt the farming of the land.

Thus in understanding the preoccupation with which our ancestors fought over their local churches, schools, highways, bridges and lands, which will be described in later chapters, we must realize how the geologic forces of the far distant past, in shaping out a valley tempting as a paradise to the early land-hungry settler but fraught with all the dangers of isolation and inaccessibility, in reality shaped out the destiny of Ancient Simsbury.

II

An Account of the Aboriginal Inhabitants of Ancient Simsbury.

PRIOR to the settling of America the greater part of the continent was occupied by a race of Indians distinctly different from anything the whites had heretofore encountered. With the characteristic reddish or bronzed cast of countenance, high cheek bones, black hair, tall and erect carriage, and small population, they had nevertheless developed a high degree of stone-age culture and occupied themselves largely in hunting, fishing, and the pursuit of a primitive sort of agriculture.

The occasional finding of a stray arrowpoint or spearhead or even a stone mortar and pestle stirs within each one of us the desire to know more about the race of people who preceded the first white settlers in our town. Much valuable work has been done on the Indian life of Connecticut but much more can and should be done to bring to light local Indian names and the location of possible campsites, workshops and burial grounds.

It is commonly found in early colonial land records that property was bounded by brooks and Indian "paths" or trails

or described as lying in some particular Indian tribal area. By searching such records the ancient Indian name for brooks and districts as well as the location of their trails can be ascertained and recorded for posterity. When farmers, in plowing their fields, find arrowpoints, stone axes, bits of charcoal and other evidences of the Indians, they should make careful notes of the exact location of such finds and notify their local historical society. In this way, over a period of years, a large body of evidence would be accumulated which historians and scholars could use in reconstructing the life of the aboriginal American.

The Indians who lived in the general area of New England belonged to the Algonkin nation and spoke the Algonkin tongue. Within this nation there were many distinct tribes with varying dialects such as the Pequots, Podunks, Mohegans, and others. In describing their home land to strangers they knew that their particular tribal village name would mean nothing, hence they said that they came from Connecticut, being that part of the country which was "by the long river"; namely, "conn" (long), "tic" (tidal river), "ut" (by). Among the sixteen distinct tribes of Connecticut Indians at the time of the invasion of the white settlers were the "Massacoës", who lived in the area bounded north by the Agawams (Southwick and Suffield), east by the Poquonocks (now Windsor), south by the Tunxis (Farmington), and west by the territory disputed with the Mohawks. Thus the tribal territory of the Massacoës covered the area now comprising Simsbury, part of Granby, East Granby, Barkhamsted, and Canton. Through this general area flows the Farmington River, the colonial name being "The Tunxis" derived from "wattunkshausepo" or "fast flowing and winding stream."

The common pronunciation of Massaco was stated by Dr. Lucius I. Barber, in his contribution on Simsbury to Trumbull's "Memorial History of Hartford County", as "Mas-saw'-co." According to Mathias Spiess of Manchester the pro-

nunciation should be "Massa-co". The word "Massaco" denotes a large tract of lowland from the Algonkin "massa" (large or great) and "agwu" ("low", meaning alluvium or meadow-land). An order of the General Court, dated April 1642 and containing the first recorded mention of Massaco, used the word "Mossocowe" which would seem to indicate from the spelling the pronunciation "Moso-cowe", thus giving support to Mr. Spiess' contention.

The size of the tribe is not known but from the frequency with which evidence of their culture is found they must have been numerous or else widely scattered. Regardless of size they occupied a strategic position at the junction-point where the so-called "Northwest Path" joined with the great "Maya" or trail that led from Quinnipiac (New Haven) through Tunxis to Warranoke (Westfield) and eventually Canada. As reconstructed by Mathias Spiess from old records and traditions and published in pictorial map form by the Connecticut Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Connecticut in 1625 was a network of Indian trails. The Northwest Path came down the Albany Turnpike of today and entered the Ancient Simsbury limits at Canton following in a general way the highway which parallels the old Central New England Railroad track from Canton to Simsbury. It is interesting to note that the railroads were prompted by the same considerations of terrain as well as logical lines of communication between natural population or economic centers as the Indians were in locating their trails several hundred years before. Within the present limits of Simsbury two Indian village sites are known. The principal village presumably was at Weatogue from the nature of the name itself, "wit" (home) and "auk" or "og" (place). Many interesting finds have been made in the neighborhood of the Dickinson farm and the residence of John S. Ellsworth and Folly Farm. Tradition assigns an Indian workshop as being located on the knoll directly north of the falls of King Philip Brook, or

"Hell Hole," and just across the present highway to Hartford. In fact it is possible that the name "Hell Hole" commonly ascribed to the above-mentioned falls, and described in early land records, may be the corruption of an Indian name in the same way as the so-called "Cat Hole" near Meriden comes from the Algonkin "m'chipscat" (stone path) and "auho" (warning). This forbidding rocky pass of the Cat Hole still harbors many rattlesnakes which make it as unsafe for the whites of today as for the Indians of yesterday.

According to Noah A. Phelps the Indians had a burying ground "near the house of the late Col. James Cornish" where human bones were discovered when the cellar to his house was excavated. This is probably the house now occupied by Mrs. Minnie Epstein in East Weatogue. Tradition says another burial ground was "on a patch of rising ground in the rear of the house of Mrs. T. L. Bissell," which is probably in the area east of the Antonio Bonetti farm and north of the residence of John S. Ellsworth. In the meadows west of the Bacon homestead now occupied by Miss Mary Eno various Indian relics have been found.

A second village of the Massacoës was probably just north of Hoskins Station, west of the present College Highway, and adjoining Saxton's Brook. It is not known whether there was a village in Hop Meadow although Phelps mentions that one "Col. Aurora Case, in plowing a new field, lying westerly of Mr. Robert J. McRoy's house, (formerly occupied by Mr. Stephen Terry) found a stone mortar and pestle of Indian workmanship, used for pounding corn, which have been deposited in the archives of the Connecticut Historical Society." The above-mentioned location is either in the plot just south of the present Methodist parsonage or on the tilled upland westerly of the place.

According to Mrs. Benton Holcomb her husband claimed that an Indian campsite existed near a spring situated northwesterly of Fiddle Pond which is located southeasterly of

Barndoors Hills. Not only Indian chips were found there but also charcoal. In the neighborhood of the small house owned by Richard H. Cole of Hartford and known as "The Pink Palace" Mr. Benton Holcomb found the so-called "bird stone", now in the Simsbury Historical Society. About a half mile north of the Benton Holcomb farm is the present Groper farm. Due east is the "Old Mill Lot" adjoining the former site of a sawmill. The father of Mrs. Benton Holcomb, when digging postholes on the roadside of this lot, found many Indian relics.

An Indian visitor to the lands of the Massacoës coming north on the Quinnipiac-Tunxis trail or easterly on the Northwest Path through the dense pine forests would have discovered the summer wigwams of the Massacoës either on the meadow-lands adjoining the Tunxis River or else removed slightly to neighboring knolls just out of reach of flood waters. Small patches of the alluvial land were cleared and planted to corn, beans, squash and tobacco. The rivers and brooks, which teemed with salmon, shad, alewives and trout; the tangled thickets of berries and hop vines of the lowlands adjoining their fields, abounding in grouse, quail, and wild turkey; the great stretches of marsh land and numerous ponds, which supported myriads of ducks and other water fowl, as well as muskrat, otter, and beaver; and the dense forests filled with moose, deer, wolves, wildcats and even bear; provided the Indians with their chief means of subsistence.

With the approach of winter quite probably the scattered wigwams of the Massacoës were deserted for a more closely-knit village life. They probably spent their time fishing through the ice and trapping. Around their campfires they chipped out their stone implements and weapons, dressed their deer-hides and ground their corn meal. A well-known village was at a sandy and barren place north of Manatuck Lake in the vicinity of the crossroad leading from the College Highway east through the notch in Manatuck Mountain to

Hungary. At this place Mr. Spiess in recent years found many Indian relics, locating in one afternoon alone eighteen spear-points besides many arrowheads. Here he found the finest specimens of tobacco pipes. Owing to the nature of the brittle trap-rock used by the Indians of this locality it was necessary to work the rock in a different manner from the conventional arrow or spearpoint. Such weapons of the Massacoës are rounder and bulkier than the usual, flatter-shaped, flint points and for that reason are easily identified. According to Spiess, Manatuck Mountain was an Indian "lookout." The word "amantuck" means "to see into the distance." On the top of Manatuck Mt. the ruins of an Indian fort were observable twenty years ago.

So little research has been done on the Indian life of our valley that there is a particular dearth of Indian names compared with some of our sister towns. We recognize only a few such as Tunxis, Weatogue, Massaco, Manatuck, Congamuck (Congamond). It is possible that "Hell Hole" and "Calves Tongue" Brooks are corruptions of Indian names. All the ancient land records mention Nod Meadow and Nod Brook just north of Avon village, and one of the early spellings of Nod was "Node" indicating an early pronunciation. It is interesting to observe that there is an Indian word "noadt" which means "far, far off, a great way off." To the Massacoës at Manatuck or Hoskins Station, as well as the early white settlers from Windsor, the south or Farmington bounds were indeed "far off", hence the Indian origin of the word "Nod."

Most of us have been led to believe that Hop Brook and Hop Meadow derived their names from the presence of wild hops which grew freely in the valley. The prevalence of the word "Hop" in early settlements throughout all sections of Connecticut leads us to believe that there might have been a different origin. Besides hops there grew all along the banks of rivers and brooks a wild hemp which the Indians called "hashabp" (pronounced "hos-hop"). When we consider how

"m'chipscat auho" became Cat Hole; how "Mamanto" became Manto; "Watunkshausepo", Tunxis; "Saukunkamissi-keak", Skunk's Misery; "Sowanset", Sunset and so on, we may well believe that "Hop" originated from the phonetic sound of "hashabp", which the early whites never saw written down but heard the Indians pronounce. A few Indian proper names have survived chiefly because they were mentioned in the Windsor deeds which the Indians gave to John Griffin conveying to him the tribal lands of Massaco: Manahanoose, Pocataco, Pamatacount, Youngcowet, Mamanto, Waquaheag, alias Cherry, and others. In early land records mention is made of "Mantoe's Meadow" as lying on the east side of the river at Weatogue. This meadow consisting of two acres was reserved to the Indian Mamanto in an early deed. Cherry Brook west of Canton is supposed to have derived its name from "Cherry", the nickname of an Indian claiming ownership to that territory.

Indian legends are particularly scarce. The most famous is associated with a cave located in the west face of a ledge in Talcott Mountain to the north of the Heublein Tower and still known as King Philip's Cave. When Simsbury was burned by the Indians in 1676, the inhabitants first having escaped safely to Windsor, tradition tells us that King Philip, the great chief of the Wampanoag Indians, sat in this secure vantage point and watched the burning of the forty-odd settlers' cabins.*

Tradition furthermore states that the Massacoës who had been friendly to the whites, fearing Philip and his warriors and undoubtedly disturbed by the increasing encroachments

* In Phelps' "History", Page 24 footnote, he puts forth the suggestion that Mt. Philip derived its name from a confusion with Phelps Mt. inasmuch as a person of that name was the owner at that time of a large tract of land on it and early town records so speak of it. There is a document in the State Department at Hartford which gives the confession of an Indian who accused seven Indians from around Springfield (probably Agawams) of having burned Simsbury. It is doubtful if only seven could have pillaged and burned the town in the short space of a day and night. Furthermore, it is reasonably certain that Philip was not in this part of the country at the time.

of the whites on their home lands and hunting grounds, went westwardly and settled on the banks of the Housatonic River where later other tribes joined them. They finally settled at Kent, when the Scatacooks became established there. There were known to be "Weatauge" Indians of Salisbury who were supposed to have been driven from Simsbury in Philip's War and who lived there until well after 1740 when Salisbury was settled.

An interesting legend, which may explain the name "Hell Hole", is recounted for us in Gocher's "Wadsworth or The Charter Oak." When Capt. Joseph Wadsworth escaped, following the hiding of the Charter in 1687, his route took him over the pass to Simsbury near Mt. Philip. As he sat beside the waterfall, now known as Hell Hole, an Indian came and stood beside him but refused to sit down, saying that none of his tribe ever sat there. Apparently the old Indian had come back from the new Housatonic lands to revisit his old tribal lands at Weatogue. The narrative of Captain Wadsworth continues as follows:

I also gathered from him that many years before the white man came to the big river the Indians grew their corn and beans in the valley of the Tunxis. That one year the rains came and destroyed two plantings, the river then, as now, becoming after a prolonged storm a raging torrent. At this time one of the sachems of the tribe had his wigwam on a little knoll near the edge of the stream, and as a consequence he lost not only his plantings of corn and beans, but also his place of shelter and all his belongings which could not be carried in canoes. After the second flood he built a wigwam on the ledge of the mountain and planted corn there as well as in the valley. As there were no more storms the corn grew from both plantings.

One day, when the corn was soft in the ear, the leaves on mountain trees were seen to turn upwards as they do before a storm. There was no wind, but still the leaves rattled like the poplar at sunrise. In a few moments the earth trembled like the water when the wind touches it softly. Then all was still. Hobbamock, the spirit of evil, was angry with his people. The next day the young men who hunted on the moun-

tain found that seams had appeared in the rocks and that there was running water where there had always been dry land. Before night the low places in this depression of the hills were under water and in a few days the sachem's corn was destroyed and his wigwam afloat. The lake on the mountain top had a mate. From that day none of the Indians would rest there. The old Indian also said that during the winter the ice split the rocks so that the water ran off, leaving the noisy mountain brook and fall to remind them of the displeasure of their god.

Reference is still made to "Rum Spring" which feeds a small tributary to Griffin's Brook at Scotland Parish, North Bloomfield. Here the Indians dipped out water for "chasers" when drinking the white man's rum. Opposite the dam of the Tariffville plant of the Hartford Electric Light Company on the south bank of the river is a spring known as "Indian Spring" which has never been known to run dry.

For those interested in seeing examples of Connecticut and particularly local Indian relics the Simsbury Historical Society has on display the loan collection of the late Benton Holcomb of West Granby. At the State Library in Hartford the Indian collection of the late George Mitchelson of Scotland Parish, North Bloomfield may be seen. According to W. E. Britton of New Haven, Superintendent of the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey, and Mr. Cornelius Osgood, Department of Anthropology in the Peabody Museum of Yale University in New Haven, the best archaeological collections in the State are those of Mr. Norris L. Bull of West Hartford, who has an undisputed priority in his familiarity with Indian sites in Hartford County. Mention has already been made of some very fine relics found by Mathias Spiess of Manchester.

¶ *The Birth and Boyhood of Simsbury: a Narration of the Settlement of Massaco and the Incorporation of Ancient Simsbury, 1642-1676.*

THE question is always easily asked but answered with greater difficulty: "Exactly why did the early settler come to Simsbury?" We must go back in our history and recollect that Windsor and her sister towns were founded in the period commencing in the year 1633. By 1660 when attention was being seriously paid to the settling of the Massaco plantation, the original Windsor settlers were men nearing the age of sixty and already settled in their homes and community. Colonial families were notoriously large, however, and there were grown sons and daughters coming along for whom a home and livelihood must be provided. Much of the spare lands of good farming value were taken up to care for the growing families of the first proprietors. Coincident with the growth of the old families a great influx occurred of new arrivals from England seeking lands in the colony. Thus

we see the pressure of population and the desire for new lands working side by side to start a westward migration to the first Connecticut frontier over the mountain in the verdant Farmington River valley.

There was still another motive at work to draw people westward from Windsor. One of the great industries of the infant colony was the preparation of pitch and tar used extensively in shipbuilding. Within the colony and between the various colonies travel and commerce were carried on chiefly by boat owing to the lack of good roads. Shipbuilding, therefore, was a considerable industry and it provided a ready and profitable market for the locally produced tar and pitch.

The method of its manufacture is of interest. In a manner similar to the burning of charcoal, yellow pine wood was piled up, mounded over with earth to partially exclude the air, and burned slowly. The various liquids in the wood seeped to the bottom of the mass, were collected in a cavity, and drawn off as tar. By distilling this tar, spirits of turpentine was obtained and the residue was pitch. Crude turpentine was also gathered by gashing the white pine trees and collecting the resinous sap.

We have seen how the land stretching from Windsor westward to Simsbury was clothed with magnificent forests of pines. It was only a question of time before the enterprising Windsor settlers exhausted the timber near home and began to push into the western forests to cut down the pines for their tar-making. As we shall see later, two of the first settlers in Massaco were John Griffin and Michael Humphrey, originally engaged in this occupation in Windsor.

A but little understood factor influencing the migration of certain influential Windsor people to Simsbury was the religious one. In the first excitement of settling Connecticut, church and state were as one. The meeting house was the church and all men thought more or less alike on religious matters. It was not long, however, before new arrivals came

Part of Falmington



to the colony not because they sought a congenial religious atmosphere but because they either disagreed with the beliefs of their people at home or else sought lands and independent riches of their own in the new wilderness. Among the newcomers were many former Church of England members, luke-warm perhaps, but, nevertheless, not the stern Puritans that the original settlers were. These later arrivals were forced by law to attend divine worship on Sunday and to support with their taxes a minister who preached a doctrine to which they did not subscribe. At the same time, being former Church of England members, they were disbarred from communion, baptism, and participation in the meetings that determined their taxes for the support of the minister. The General Court at Hartford sought to settle the controversy in Windsor over this matter by enacting a more lenient law called the "halfway covenant" but by 1664 the Windsor minister refused to follow it further and again denied the privileges of the Church to former Anglicans. It is significant that several of the most prominent of these Windsor Anglicans shortly thereafter became settlers of Massaco now Simsbury; namely, John Moses, Michael Humphrey, Jonas Westover, and James Eno.

The first recorded mention of the area known as Massaco, later to become Simsbury, is in the following order of the General Court at its session in April 1642:

"Its Ordered that the Gov'rnor and Mr. Heynes shall have liberty to dispose of the ground Upon that p^rte of Tunxis River cauled Mossocowe, to such inhabitants of Wyndson as they shall see cause."

It is quite possible that the desire to grant lands to Windsor men who had served in the early Indian wars might have been the compelling motive behind this order. In Stiles' "Ancient Windsor" a list of fourteen known names of soldiers in the Pequot War contain three which appear on an early list of those desiring Massaco grants; namely, Nathan Gillet, Thomas Barber, and James Eggleston. In any event there is

no record to indicate that any action was taken pursuant to this order nor was any action taken in response to another order of the General Court in 1647 some five years later.

During this period two Windsor men, John Griffin and Michael Humphrey, carried on a prosperous business manufacturing pitch, tar, and turpentine. In the pursuit of their business they had undoubtedly encroached upon the lands of the Massacoës presumably in the neighborhood of North Bloomfield and the Falls. Old records and maps give the name of Griffin's Brook to that stream which flows through Scotland Parish; and a grant to John Williams, in 1674, described as being "on the playn, as soon as one comes over the Brook commonly called Griffin's Brook, up the hill, *where were some old Tarre Kills,*" gives further evidence that John Griffin carried on his activities on the western borders of old Windsor. About the year 1648 possibly out of anger at the whites who were advancing their tar-making operations into Indian lands, Manahannoose, probably a sachem of the Massacoës, set fire to the pitch and tar works of John Griffin. Brought before the Court and found guilty, Manahannoose was fined five hundred fathom of wampum. Naturally unable to pay such a heavy fine, he was delivered over by the Court to Griffin as a slave to be kept by him or shipped out and exchanged for negroes. Three Indians, Pacataco, Pamatacount, and Youngcowet representing his fellow tribesmen, some twenty in number, came to his rescue at this juncture and by deeding to John Griffin a large portion of their tribal lands obtained Manahannoose's release. This original area was described as being "all the land from the foot of the Hills on both syds the Riv^r up to the brok that is now called Nod Meadow." In return the three Indian signers received two acres of land which they agreed to fence and maintain. The first Indian deed is recorded on the town records of Windsor.

In September 1653 irrespective of Griffin's prior deed to the land from the Massacoës and without any negotiations

looking towards the purchase of the lands from the Indians, the General Court made the first grants in Massaco. To Lieut. Aaron Cook was given fifty acres on both sides of the river at Tariffville, to John Bissell sixty acres next upstream adjoining Lieut. Cook's, and to Thomas Ford fifty acres in the peninsula of land on the east side of the river at what is commonly called "Nigger Elbow." It is difficult to conceive today how Lieut. Cook's fifty acres could stretch from Tariffville upstream far enough to join John Bissell's sixty acres, which we know were located in the vicinity probably north of the present Terry's Plain Bridge because of the name "Bissell's Brook" and "Bissell's Landing", but we must remember that the first settlers probably took only those meadow lands that were kept reasonably clean and open by the floods in order that they need do little but till the land and grow their crops. Under these conditions a small strip of land extending back from the river a very few rods would need to extend along both river banks a considerable distance to amount to any large acreage.

The question will inevitably have to be settled as to the exact date of the founding of Simsbury. On that point the wording of the 1653 grant to Thomas Ford mentioned above is significant: "There is also granted to Tho: Ford 50 acres at Massacoe, *whereof four and forty hath been improved by him*, by ploughing and mowing as it was measured by Mathu: Graunt . . ." Whether or not other Windsor men had already started to improve land in Massaco before the grants of the Court we do not know. We do know, however, that Thomas Ford had a son-in-law, Lieut. Aaron Cook —the same who received the fifty acres "next above the Fauls"—and that he was in his father-in-law's employ. Furthermore, Cook left Windsor permanently in 1660 presumably to settle at Massaco on lands which he had been improving for some period of time as the records indicate. The deduction that Lieut. Cook not only worked his own grant but also

that of his father-in-law Ford is further strengthened by the fact that Ford made over the land to his son-in-law in 1670. After passing through other hands, in 1677 the property in question came into the possession of John Terry of Windsor in whom and his descendants the title remained for more than two hundred years. Afterwards owned by Campbell Case and now by the estate of Alexander T. Pattison this farm is traditionally considered to be the first land occupied and improved in Massaco; and Aaron Cook the first settler. The celebration of Simsbury's Tercentenary eighteen years hence may well hinge on the above evidence, which has been worked out so carefully by our last historian, Lucius M. Barber.

No further grants are mentioned until the year 1660 when the Committee acting for the General Court under the 1653 appointment made grants to the following Windsor men who in all probability did not take up their lands or otherwise dispose of them until several years later: At Hopmeadow, John Owen (the Aaron Eno farm meadowland), Luke Hill, Joseph Parsons, and Jonathan Gillett; at Weatogue on the east side of the river John Moses, Josiah Hull, Nathan Gillett, and Daniel Clark.

In 1661 the Lieut. Cook grant at the Falls was conveyed to Simon Wolcott and this worthy citizen became thus closely identified with the fortunes of the newly projected settlement. This same property later went by purchase to John Higley, another prominent early Simsbury man. The same year Capt. Benjamin Newbury was given lands on the west side of the river, which area long afterwards bore the name of "Newbury's Plain." This land later went to Jonas Westover and became "Westover's Plain" and gave its name to a school district there (now Hoskins Station). Another worthy citizen received his reward in 1663 when the General Court made a grant to John Griffin of 200 acres north of the Falls in consideration that "he had made it appear to the Court that he was the first to perfect the art of making pitch and tarre in these

parts." This land probably included the "Pickerill Cove" and the "Island" still easily identified today at Tariffville where the river makes an abrupt eastward bend to leave the valley and passes into the gap in the hills.

There was a law of the Colony that individuals could not purchase lands from the Indians except for the use of the Colony. Accordingly on Dec. 23, 1661 John Griffin turned over his deed received from the Indians in 1648 to the Massaco land committee for the use and benefit of the plantation of Windsor. Apparently the 1648 deed was not deemed binding by the Massaco Indians particularly in respect to their lands at Weatogue. The committee holding Griffin's deed were disturbed enough about it to go to the Court at Hartford which in 1662 took testimony from John Griffin, Thomas Allyn and others regarding the circumstances of the original deed and finally ruled that the whites had obtained a good title to the Weatogue area but ordered that Mamanto was to have two acres of planting land; Keepoquam, forty shillings of wampum; and Metapage, one coat. A receipt from these three Indians definitely indicates that they recognized the sale of their lands; namely, "all the aforesaid Mead and upland; from Farmingtone Bounds on the south to Cap. Cookes."

By 1663 the spirit of migration among the Windsor people was fully aroused and the General Court appointed a Committee consisting of Capt. Newbury, Edward Griswold and John Moore, to which Simon Wolcott was later added, to lay out the remaining undivided lands at Massaco. It should be remembered in all these transactions that Massaco was a Windsor plantation. Up to this time most of the Massaco landowners had their legal residences at Windsor, only a few of them working their new lands and possibly building small cabins or homes where they resided during the growing season. In 1666 the Committee established certain terms upon which lands would be allotted to Windsor people: Their lands were to be improved by plowing and mowing within two years

after the grants were confirmed, they were to build homes and construct necessary fences, they must not sell within three years, and everyone had to allow a highway through their lands as became necessary for the town. A large list of subscribers' names was obtained and the Committee came over to Massaco and proceeded to lay out their lots commencing at Nod Meadow near the Avon line and going northerly down the valley to Hop Meadow where they first laid out the meadow lands, then the houselots, all of which were easterly of Hopmeadow St., and finally they laid out a houselot for Joshua Holcomb at Terry's Plain. Nearly all of those for whom these lots were laid out became occupants of their lands within the time limited. A return made in 1669, by order of the General Court, of the names of freemen belonging to each town and plantation reads as follows: "These are stated inhabitants of Massaco, and have been freemen for Windsor. Thomas Barber, John Case, Samuel Filly, John Griffin, Micall Houmfery (Humphrey), Joshua Holcom(b), Thomas Maskell, Luk(e) Hill, Samuel Pinne(y), Joseph Phelps, John Pettibon(e), Joseph Skinner, Peter Buell."

Thus by 1669, some twenty-one years after Manahannoose gave an informal deed of Massaco to John Griffin and sixteen years after the General Court gave the first land grants to Windsor men in Massaco, a bona fide settlement had grown up at Weatogue, Hop Meadow, Terry's Plain and the Falls. The above-mentioned freemen with a few additions constitute the real fathers of Simsbury and the prevalence of so many of their names today is testimony to the strength and influence they had in shaping our local history. The seeds planted from good Windsor stock had taken root and the plantation was ready to stand on its own feet. The first step in setting up a civil government looking towards Simsbury's eventual independence of Windsor was the appointment of a Constable by the General Court. There being no other officer in the community it was necessary to appoint a leader to preserve the

public peace, execute the orders of magistrates and courts and to conduct meetings of the inhabitants. This responsibility devolved upon John Case in 1669, the first man belonging to the Community to hold any office on behalf of the plantation. Shortly thereafter a town meeting was called—in those days a meeting only of freemen—and Joshua Holcomb and John Case were named to petition the General Court for town privileges. At the session of the Court, May 12th, 1670 this petition was presented, at once granted, and the two delegates received as the "Deputies of the General Court for Simsbury," and the boundaries of the new plantation defined. The record of incorporation of Simsbury as a town is as follows: "This Court grants Massacoe's bownds shall runn from Farmington bownds to the northward tenn miles, and from Windsor bownds on the east to run westward tenn miles, provided it doe not prejudice any former grant, and be in the power of this Court so to dispose."

"The Court orders that the plantation at Massacoe, be called Simmsbury."

The origin of the name Simsbury cannot be accurately ascertained from documentary evidence. The suggestion of Dr. Barber, concurred in by Prof. Charles M. Andrews of New Haven, that Simsbury is derived from the shortened form of the English Simondsbury in Dorsetshire seems most reasonable. For instance, Pomfret derives its name from the old English town Pontefract in a similar manner. Furthermore, it is believed that the ancestors of Joshua Holcomb, the first deputy from Simsbury, came from near Simondsbury as may also have the family of Simon Wolcott, a prominent land-owner in the new plantation. It would be only natural that they should wish to commemorate the name of their beloved home in the old country.

For the ten years following the incorporation of Simsbury we have little information. The town records having been destroyed by fire about 1680, there remained only a few notes

jotted down by the Town Clerk from memory some years later. It is believed that John Slater was the first Town Clerk. He, along with four others, was authorized by the town to hear and settle any disputes arising out of the loss of the early records. Undoubtedly the little plantation grew—at least large enough by 1671 so that the General Court granted Simon Wolcott a license to retail wines and liquors until an “Ordinary” or tavern could be established. This goal was achieved in 1675 when a Simsbury town meeting licensed Samuel Pinney to set up the first ordinary for the purpose of caring for strangers and travellers and to furnish any necessary provisions and drinks on training days, Sabbaths, and town meeting days. Having provided for the welfare of the body the townspeople next turned to the satisfaction of their spiritual wants. At a meeting at Capt. Cook’s at Terry’s Plain on May 5, 1671 they voted to establish a meeting house at Hop Meadow to be located approximately in front of the present High School. At that time a road had been established running east to the river known as the Pent Road from the gates which enclosed it at either end. In all probability a crude “canoe” or ferry crossing had been established at Terry’s Plain and to locate the meeting house at the head of the Pent Road to the ferry would be a convenience to the Terry’s Plain people as well as being at a midway point between the settlers at Farmington bounds and those at Salmon Brook.

Shortly after the above vote another meeting was held and the Rev. Mr. Stone was asked to determine whether the location should be in front of our present cemetery or at a place opposite where the Robert Darling residence now stands. He chose the latter. Again there was dissatisfaction, other meetings were held and Major Talcott was called in from Hartford to act as arbitrator but to no avail. All this time the unfortunate contractor, Thomas Barber, with the timbers all hewn and shaped for the meeting house, was forced to move them from one site to another awaiting a decision.

In the meantime pursuant to a law of the Colony everyone was ordered to attend upon the Lord's Day, public fast days, and days of Thanksgiving "the publique ministry of the Word" upon fine of five shillings. Unable to agree upon a meeting place the least the good Simsbury folk could do would be to hire or "settle" a regular minister to preach to them. Apparently Mr. Samuel Stone of Hartford was their choice as he had been preaching satisfactorily to them as early as May 1673. When invited to settle he refused "by reason of his disabilities and weakness of body" and without permanent settlement continued to preach whenever he could until 1679, receiving an annual stipend of forty pounds. In all probability Mr. Stone travelled from community to community holding meetings in the settlers' cabins during all this early period.

At the time of incorporation in 1670 Simsbury received from the General Court an area ten miles square, which included lands never purchased of the Indians, extending westward to West River now Cherry's Brook, Canton. In 1674-5 Waquaheag (alias Cherry), an Indian of the region, laid claim to the lands. In order to secure it for the whites and quiet the title a Committee treated with Cherry and obtained it for the town.

With a minister to watch over them, a contract let for a meeting house, an ordinary licensed, and a quiet title obtained for their extensive lands, the prospects for peace, security and material comforts seemed indeed bright to the hardy pioneers who had been building up the town. It must not be forgotten, however, that Simsbury was still a frontier settlement and that the dense forests to the north and west held the lurking savage, who was tied to the whites by slender bonds of friendship bought by not over-generous dealings. In 1673 the "Grand Committee for the ordering of the Militiae . . . appoynted Mr. Simon Woolcott and John Griffin to be those that shall command the Traine Band of Simsbury, for the present, and untill the Generall Court order otherwise, or the people then

make their choyse." It was necessary especially in a frontier town to have the people reasonably prepared to protect themselves. A training ground was set apart for drilling the "traine band," as the small militia company was called, and certain settlers' cabins were designated as places of safety in event of attack. In all probability such cabins were somewhat more strongly built, more carefully protected, and possibly enclosed by a stockade. In such a "fort" a supply of ammunition was kept on hand and a good water supply maintained near-by.

The organization of the local militia company was none too soon. Rumors began to reach the Colonists that Metacomet, called Philip, the second son of the late chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag Indians, was on the warpath. Exposed towns in southern Massachusetts were sacked, pillaged, and burned and scores of settlers were killed in their fields or scalped in their cabins at night by the desperate followers of Philip who, scattered in small bands, seemed to the bewildered inhabitants to be everywhere at once. The General Court took immediate action and appointed an Emergency Council to act whenever the General Court was not in session. The Magistrates on July 6, 1675 confirmed John Griffin as sergeant of the Simsbury Train Band and put him in command of them "in case of any exigency by the assault of an enemie." On a certain day in August all inhabitants of the various towns were called to their meeting house duly prepared and provided with arms and ammunition to receive orders from their commanders. By the end of August skulking Indians were observed near Hartford and Windsor and two settlers had been fired upon. The situation seemed so serious that the Council ordered a night watch established in each plantation and by day one quarter of each town was to stand guard under arms. Workers in the field had to work in groups and be provided with arms and ammunition. The roads from Windsor to Hartford and Windsor to Simsbury were ordered to be patrolled for the safety of travellers, and a small garrison was established at Simsbury



MOUNT PHILIP AND OLD WOODEN BRIDGE ACROSS THE FARMINGTON RIVER AT WEATOGUE.
From a painting in the Samsbury Free Library by Horace W. Robbins.

at public expense and kept there until such time as the Simsbury people could "secure themselves and their corn there." A written compact of friendship was soon negotiated with all the Indians living in the Hartford County area and in great measure this must have quieted the fears of our townspeople and enabled them to remain unmolested through a quiet winter.

By Spring, however, the danger of an attack by Philip's Indians or their allies seemed imminent and on March 3, 1676 an order of the Council was issued for the inhabitants of Simsbury to remove themselves to some other neighboring plantation for their safety and security. It might well have been about this time that the incident took place recorded in The Rev. Daniel Barber's "History of My Own Times": Referring to Thomas Barber, one of the original Simsbury patentees, "It is reported of him that at a time when the savages were surrounding the town, with a determination to destroy its inhabitants in the darkness of the night, that by means of his military skill and sagacity, he prevented their attack; that the next morning, the wind being fair, he ascended the roof of his house, in the place called Hopmeadow, and beat an alarm on his drum. The beat was heard and understood at Windsor, seven or eight miles off. The militia took the alarm, and a company under arms made their appearance in the afternoon at Simsbury."

After a fright of this nature we can hardly blame our townspeople for removing hastily to Windsor, which they did, driving their stock before them and carrying what they could upon their shoulders or upon the backs of their horses. We can hardly realize today what such a retreat means. The time of year was cold, early March, the river still coated with treacherous ice, the roads nothing but ruts and mire. The poor unfortunates who lived on the west side of the river from Farmington bounds north to Salmon Brook had to make the long trek to the Falls and ford the icy and swollen waters there before reaching the way to Windsor.

The settlers at Terry's Plain and East Weatogue probably worked their way over the mountain on narrow trails as roadways were not laid out at that time. Obviously it was impractical to carry their heavy articles such as pots, kettles, plow irons, and much of their farming equipment and tools. These heavy articles were secreted in the bottom of swamps and wells. Tradition relates that Simon Wolcott and his family filled up a large brass kettle with his pewter cups, basins, and platters and then sunk the kettle with its contents in the deep mud of a swamp, but were never able to find it afterwards.

Simsbury, thus abandoned, was an easy mark for the Indians who promptly wreaked their vengeance and pillaged the empty houses before finally setting fire to them. This event occurred on Sunday, March 26, 1676. About forty dwellings together with a number of barns and other buildings were consumed. Simsbury was the only Connecticut town to suffer such an Indian attack and during all the Indian wars, before or since, no English settlement suffered such a total and complete destruction as in this conflagration. That the conflagration was premeditated seems obvious not only on account of its thoroughness but also from the fact that the homes which were burned extended over a distance of nearly ten miles and on both sides of the river. Every Simsbury person today can tell the legendary story of how King Philip sat in a cave in the ledge of Mt. Philip, now Talcott Mt., just south of the present road from Simsbury to Hartford and, surrounded by his trusted counsellors, as Phelps expresses it, "viewed the scene, and enjoyed from its contemplation those emotions of pleasure which, it is supposed, are peculiarly agreeable to all of his race, when placed under similar circumstances."

Thus, the first chapter in the history of Simsbury, "the Appendix to Windsor," closes with a tragedy which fortunately involved material loss rather than that of human life. One relieving touch occurred shortly after, which helps account for the strong feelings of affection the people of our town

have always had for the mother-town, Windsor. A subscription for the relief of sufferers from the ravages of the Indians was circulated and participated in by almost all the inhabitants of Windsor. At the suggestion of the Council this contribution was appropriated for the relief of the Simsbury refugees. The people of Simsbury will ever bear this charitable demonstration in grateful remembrance.

*¶ Progress to Manhood —
Wherein is recounted the Re-
settlement of Simsbury and
its Civil and Ecclesiastical
Growth, 1677-1800.*

WE have just seen how the first settlement grew out of a migration from Windsor and how, when real trouble impended, the frightened settlers fled back to the protecting areas, hearths, and broad bosom of Mother-Windsor. With King Philip's War over and immediate danger from hostile Indians removed, the Council gave permission in March 1677 for the refugees to remove back to Simsbury and resettle. This determination of the former inhabitants, temporarily residing in Windsor, to return to their devastated farms in the fertile valley of the Farmington River really marks the end of the period when Simsbury was regarded as the "Appendix of Windsor" and commences the period of growth, when the struggling town stands alone on its own feet and grows to manhood as the real or modern Simsbury which we know today.

We have observed in the last chapter how the choicest portions of Ancient Simsbury were granted out and allotted to deserving individuals from Windsor. In this new period we find a splitting-up of the large grants among numerous offspring of the original owners or their sale to newcomers. Furthermore we note a new phenomenon whereby all the unallotted lands, called "common lands," owned in common by the freemen or proprietors of Simsbury, were parcelled out from time to time to these proprietors or their heirs and assigns in a manner strangely resembling the dividends in new shares of stock received by the stockholder in growing and prosperous industrial enterprises of today. We shall see too how a growth in population and the increase in lands required an administrative system that brought about a strong town government; how the development of scattered communities and the struggle over the location of a central meeting house caused a division of the town into ecclesiastical parishes, which formed the basis for later political separation into the townships of East Granby, Granby, Bloomfield, and Canton; and how the characteristic sturdy independence of the land-owning farmers and enterprising merchants caused them to defend their new-gained homes from further menace of the Indians in the French and Indian Wars and from imperial encroachments of a tyrannical home-government in the Revolutionary War.

During all this period there was a steady growth of home industries such as the making of soap, candles, bullets, saltpetre, articles of clothing, utensils for household use, and furniture. Then there was the erection of sawmills and grist-mills, and the first crude efforts at mining iron and copper and the smelting and working of them into fabricated articles. All of these infant industries had their birth in this era and became the precursors of the more highly industrialized life of modern Simsbury.

The first endeavors of the returning population were towards obtaining an alleviation of burdensome restrictions so that they could speedily regain their economic strength and stand encouraged in the rebuilding of their community. By order of the Council the proprietors were bidden to repair their fences and, if any owners did not reoccupy their lands, these lands were to be taken and used by those who did return. Most of the inhabitants came back, although a few apparently forfeited their estates, and there are records where the people of Simsbury voted these abandoned lands to various ones among them. On May 14, 1677 ten men, representing themselves as "the present inhabitants of Simsbury," petitioned the General Court for tax relief, namely, that all taxes for public expenses should be raised not on a basis of persons, lands, and other personal and real estate but solely on land. In this way those who were absentee landowners were taxed a heavier proportion of the total than if they were settled and owned homes and other property besides land. The effect of a land tax of this sort would be to discourage the non-resident land-owner from retaining possession. He might prefer either to forfeit his lands to the other proprietors or else take possession and contribute to the general rebuilding. The petition was acted upon favorably as follows:

"Generall Court, May Session 1677 . . . This Court upon the motion of the inhabitants of Simsbury, doe grant that the people of Simsbury shall have liberty to rayse their rates for the ministry and towne charges onely upon lands for the three next yeares ensueing this date, any law to the contrary notwithstanding. And in regard of the great loss that the town hath received in the late warr, the Court have seen cause to remitt to the inhabitants of Simsbury that make their constant aboad there, their country rates for the three next yeares ensueing both for persons, land and cattell. But those that doe not so inhabit there, their lands only are freed

from country rates, their cattell to be listed and returned according to order."

As a matter of fact no colony tax was levied until 1689 since apparently the community was still recognized as being too impoverished to support a levy. It is interesting to note that during almost all of this period when the town paid no colony tax they had no deputies representing them in the General Court. Instead of the cry of "Taxation without representation" the rule appeared to be "No taxation, no representation." It was not until 1687 that Simsbury delegates again took their seats in the Colonial General Court.

In 1679 a petition drawn up in town meeting besought the General Court to take action against "those that have lands within ye Township of Simsbury, and are not personally liveing upon their lands, which lands, much to ye depopulating of the place, and is an appairant wrong to those that are the present Inhabitants." Pursuant to this application the Court appointed Major John Talcott, Mr. James Richards, Mr. John Wadsworth and Capt. Benjamin Newbury to determine where the proprietors were to "build and settle, so as may be most for their accommodation and safety." If the property-owners did not build and settle upon their allotments or settle some one else on their lands within six months, there was a fine of forty shillings per year to the town until they did. By March 1680 the Committee decided that eleven proprietors should build at Capt. Newbury's (now Hoskins Station), thirteen at Salmon Brook, fifteen at Hop Meadow, four at Weatogue west of the river, thirteen at Weatogue east of the river, five at Terry's Plain, and nine on the east side of the mountain. Of this total of seventy names at least ten, if not more, were already located, judging from the 1677 petition to the General Court, and it is not to be wondered that this small band should exercise its utmost diligence in trying to build up the size of the town for the inevitable protection to

themselves that would logically follow from an increase in numbers if fifty-five or sixty more came to live within the township. That they fought hard in this cause is amply testified to by the records of the next few years which show that the actual residents of Simsbury resorted freely to the County Court to prosecute those proprietors who neglected or refused to comply with the commands of the General Court. It is amusing to realize that Captain Benjamin Newbury, one of the persons sued, belonged to the very committee which laid out the home lots according to the order for the violation of which he was prosecuted.

The second endeavor of the returning settlers was the confirming of the bounds to their lands. At the same meeting Oct. 10, 1679 that petitioned the General Court for redress against the non-resident proprietors Messrs. John Terry and John Case, Sr. were impowered to call for those deeds, gifts and instruments of acknowledgments made to Sergeant John Griffin by the Indians and also the record of the acts of the Committee appointed by the General Court to measure out the several allotments to the first settlers. Where the life of a colonial community was thus so wrapped up in the ownership of land and where the fruit of the soil and the wealth of forest and river and mine was necessary to the prosperity of their generation and future generations, our shrewd forefathers sought a legal title to their land and a confirmation of its boundaries. First, in 1674 a committee consisting of John Griffin, Peter Buell and Samuel Wilcoxson received the north bounds of the town from the Indian Youngcowet on condition that he and six others be permitted to hunt for venison within the town bounds during their lifetime. Youngcowet then took John Griffin to locate the north bounds which was at a pine tree at the northern end of a pond called Mallakakess. This is probably Manatuck Pond. Then in October 1678 the General Court settled the eastern boundary of Simsbury which had been characteristically in dispute since 1675. Starting at the

known point where the corner bounds of Hartford, Farmington and Windsor met, a line was to be run straight in a general northerly direction until it met a line running westerly on Windsor's north boundary to a point five miles from the Connecticut River. Next, through the good offices of Major John Talcott, a valid deed of confirmation was obtained from the Indians on March 26, 1680 covering the acquisition of all the lands of Ancient Simsbury, some 64,000 acres, or a ten mile square area. This lengthy document promised to grant the Indians, besides hunting and fishing privileges, a "valuable summe." This was not paid and the Indians clamored for their money. A tax rate was levied on the inhabitants of Simsbury for the purpose but very few stepped forward with their payment. Finally Major Talcott settled the matter with the town by offering to pay the Indians in clothing, Indian corn, cider, victuals and beer, totalling £119-16s-3d, in return for 300 acres of land on West River (now Cherry Brook at Canton Center). Here was indeed a remarkable stroke of Yankee trading whereby 64,000 acres of land were purchased from the Indians and payment for it was derived from the sale of 300 acres of the very same land! The proprietors of Simsbury thus obtained their enlarged township at no financial cost to themselves, Major Talcott received a tidy reward for his efforts on their behalf, and the Indians received at least enough recompense so that there was never any further dispute with the whites over the Simsbury territory.

The "Indian Deed", as it was reverently called, was regarded by our ancestors as the only title they rightfully had to their possessions and it was cared for as a sacred treasure. At a town meeting in 1685 John Case, Sr. was given custody of it but not before Ensign Terry had carried it to Hartford for entry on the records there. Since that time the original deed has become lost but a copy is found in the "Red Book" of the town records. It is still a possibility that in some attic among a trunkful or packet of old papers this original, musty,

age-stained deed will be found and returned to the custody of the people of Simsbury.

Following the passage of a law by the General Court in 1685 every township had to take out a patent for its lands giving conspicuous and conclusive legal evidence of ownership. This Simsbury applied for, obtaining the signature of Governor Treat in 1686 and the confirmation of the General Court in 1703. The original patentees enumerated in the document were: Major John Talcott, Capt. Benjamin Newbury, Ensign John Terry, Mr. John Case, Mr. Joshua Holcomb, Mr. Samuel Wilcoxson, Mr. John Higley and Mr. Thomas Barber. Of these Talcott and Newbury never actually resided in the town although closely identified with it as proprietors and patentees. The other patentees were obviously the most influential of the Simsbury inhabitants of that day.

The exact location of the bounds at the northeast corner of the township was the next thing to receive the attention of the proprietors. The town of Suffield, incorporated in 1682 in Massachusetts, apparently sought to lay taxes on people who believed themselves to reside in Simsbury and it tried to sell lands belonging to the Simsbury proprietors. In 1688 a committee appointed by the General Court at the request of Simsbury started at the Farmington-Windsor-Simsbury bounds marker and, following northerly the previously marked Simsbury-Windsor bounds, measured out ten miles and placed a marker. They then turned westward at right angles and ran a line for a half mile to indicate the direction of the north boundary. Here the survey rested for twenty-three years because the matter was complicated by the entry into the dispute of both the Massachusetts and Connecticut Colony governments. Finally in 1711 a survey completed the running of the Simsbury north bounds, and also ran the west bounds. Meanwhile Massachusetts and Connecticut continued to dicker and threaten back and forth. In 1713 they agreed that Massachusetts was to have jurisdiction over her old border

towns although they fell south of the new boundary line. This meant, for instance, that Suffield was to be entirely within the boundaries of Connecticut as well as the southern part of Southwick but Massachusetts was to govern and tax them. In return Massachusetts was to compensate Connecticut with an amount of land in Western Massachusetts and New Hampshire equal in size to the amount of land taken from Connecticut south of the boundary line, which amounted to 107,793 acres. Connecticut sold the land in 1716 and gave the money to Yale College. Under this agreement a new line was run in 1717.

The desires of Suffield and other towns, however, had not been consulted and because Massachusetts taxes were higher than in Connecticut they sought to leave Massachusetts, which they did in 1749. The boundaries of the Massachusetts plantation of Southwick, however, still projected into Connecticut. Continuous squabbling over the line resulted in a compromise in 1804 whereby this disputed territory embracing the Congamond Ponds was divided between the two states. This explains why to this day a portion of Massachusetts juts into Connecticut at Congamond Ponds and is referred to as "The Notch."

To complete the rounding-out of Simsbury's boundaries a tract of land north of the north line of the town, westerly of the "Notch," and locally called the "Wedge," was annexed to Simsbury. Apart from the future division of the town, which will be recounted later, we have at the time of the Revolution the township at its greatest size.

Coincident with the above transactions and growing slowly step by step but in a logical fashion, came the development of the town government which gave them a practical means of administering their realms. We have previously described the creation of a Town Constable who was directly responsible to the General Court for carrying out their orders and preserving public peace. Next in importance were the Deputies who represented the town in the councils of the General Assembly.

By 1687 the town was prosperous enough to feel that it could afford to be represented once again after a lapse of twelve years. For a period of the next century the roster of Deputies' names is almost entirely Wilcoxsons, Higleys, Holcombs, Cases, Phelpses, Pettibones and Humphreys—all original settlers or their descendants. Each town was required to choose "Townsmen," now Selectmen, a Town Clerk, and a Surveyor. The Townsmen at first conducted all the fiscal and financial affairs of the town besides apportioning to each proprietor his share of the common fence to maintain. They were further empowered to make rules of management for the common fields and the time of fencing and of clearing them of crops. In a great degree the ethics and ecclesiastical as well as the educational affairs of the town were committed to them, and they had a general supervision of domestic and social relations such as the care of the poor and aged, and even the prevention of cruelty to children as many of the old records relate. The first recorded Townsmen were Sergeant John Griffin and Simon Wolcott in 1674. By 1677 three Townsmen were elected annually, a custom which has been maintained ever since.

The first Town Clerk was probably John Slater who continued in office till his death in 1713—a period of forty-three consecutive years! Upon him devolved the important duties of registering every man's house and land as to bounds and quantity, the entering of all deeds, and the recording of all town transactions in books provided for that purpose. In the case of John Slater, he acted as Surveyor as well and supervised the laying-out and improvement of highways. Another important position was Justice of the Peace. Prior to 1698 this office was called "Commissioner of Plantations" and appointed by the General Court. The first two Commissioners were Capt. Benjamin Newbury in 1672 and John Higley in 1688. The first of the Justices of the Peace, who was chosen by the town, was John Higley in 1698. At a much later date,

1769, Judges of Probate were chosen. The office of Town Treasurer was created in 1701 to be chosen yearly and for the purpose of calling the tax collectors to account for their work and to sue them if necessary for the proper collecting of all the taxes. The first Town Treasurer was Andrew Robe, who received an annual salary of ten shillings for the thirty-one years he was in office.

In all of the foregoing we must not lose sight of the great democratic institution of the town meeting. Here our forefathers gathered and chose their town officers; here they mingled affairs of Church and State, fought for their own ideas of where the meeting house should be located and whom they should choose as their minister; here they voted on their tax rate and haggled over every penny their townsmen sought to appropriate for fences, roads, ferries, bridges or any other special requirement. The town meeting was a frequent affair, for in the olden days the people chose to do by their own vote what might perhaps have been done easier by agents or committees or by the great delegation of authority to special individuals which we countenance today. At the present time we are nearer a pure democracy, however, than were our ancestors. Regardless of sex or creed we have only the limitations of age, citizenship, and length of residence to keep us from exercising our individual rights in the infrequent town meeting. In colonial days, on the contrary, only "freemen" could take part in the affairs of the town, which meant that they had to be admitted by vote of their fellow freemen in consideration of their qualifying as property owners, taxpayers, and church members in good standing. Naturally women took no part in political affairs. That the old time town meeting was a grand forum for debate is unquestioned and in it the freemen gave vent to all their characteristic Yankee independence and truculence. As time went on and the freemen became more numerous (and undoubtedly more vociferous) it became necessary to evolve some parliamentary rules to guide the meetings. On

December 26, 1728, a Simsbury town meeting drew up and voted affirmatively on an enlightening document entitled, "Orders and Constitution to prevent disorders in Town meetings for ye future." A moderator to conduct the meeting was to be chosen on motion of a Justice, the Town Clerk or one of the Selectmen; everything desired by at least five settled inhabitants must be put to vote; "no man shall have Liberty to argue or dispute in said meeting except he first obtain Liberty from said Modarator which said modarator shall give when it is desired of him;" the moderator cannot dismiss the meeting without a majority vote; and lastly, whoever "shall act contrary to said orders and Constitutions shall forfeit sum of six shillings one half to Complainor and prosecutor and other half to poore of said town."

Most former commentators on Simsbury history have been, it would seem, unduly impressed by the numerous reports of town meetings having to do with the location of the meeting house. Such historians have given elaborate transcripts from the old records which indicated that they read their history with an unduly watchful ecclesiastical eye. We do not wish to minimize the well-established fact that dissension arose as to the location of the common meeting place owing to the peculiar nature of the lay-out of the various communities comprising Ancient Simsbury, lying, as they did, up and down a ten mile area on either side of a wide stream difficult to cross; but we must try and take a balanced view and read our history with the fresh consideration that, after all, the meeting house was just as much the town hall for the transaction of political and social business as it was for the weekly Sabbath worship. In fact, God-fearing and religious-minded as were the early settlers compared with ourselves today, nevertheless, they had their downward periods of slackening from grace and their upward moments of revivalism. From 1660 progressively to 1735 there was, in the words of Benjamin Trumbull of North Haven, historian of the Colony, "A sensible decline as to the

life and power of godliness . . . a general ease and security in sin." This period coincides almost identically with the time of the meeting house "squabbles" and would indicate that perhaps the unifying power of religion was not as strong as our teachers and former historians would lead us to believe. In the period 1735-41 occurred the "Great Awakening", a short-lived religious revival generated by Jonathan Edwards, brought to fruition by George Whitefield, and carried to extremes by James Davenport. Significantly, therefore, in 1736 the division of Ancient Simsbury into ecclesiastical parishes or societies was consummated and in 1739 the First Society voted to build their Church on the present site at Hop Meadow.

A brief résumé of the history of our meeting house might not be amiss, however, as an example perhaps of the contentious spirit of our ancestors and as an illustration how the town meeting served as the forum for the deciding of both religious as well as public questions. On the resettlement of Simsbury after King Philip's War meeting house difficulties broke out afresh. In 1682 Major Talcott and Capt. Allyn of Hartford were called in to settle the dispute. They suggested a location for the building where Talcott had "pitched a stake" in 1677, advised the inhabitants to elect one of their Townsmen from the east side of the river (all three were men from the west side), suggested that a ferry or bridge be established, and "Finialy we advise that you study to be quiet, that you live in peace, and Joyn together unanimously in your affayrs & not Contend on with an other, yt so you may have ye presence and blessing of God with you, and we advise that ye Townsmen doe not multiply too many metings without Special occasions & necessity enforce them to it." Although, only a few weeks before, the town meeting had voted to accept whatever the arbiters decided, they now promptly rejected the above except that Nathaniel Holcomb was ousted and Joshua Holcomb put in as a Townsman for the east side.

In spite of all the bickering the town did feel the necessity of a meeting house and renewed the contract with Thomas Barber to build it. The indenture bound Barber "to set up a Frame for a metting house . . . and put up Flue Boards at ech end, and piramides . . . and make one doore to ye said House . . . ye Demensions of ye said Fraime 28 foot in length, 24 foot in Breadth, and 14th Foot Betwen Joyns." Finally a bright thought occurred to some one of the townspeople and a paper was circulated for signatures mentioning the two locations, one at Terry's Plain, the other at Hop Meadow, and suggesting that at a solemn meeting the location of the meeting house be "at ye place where the providence of God by lot shall cast it." Accordingly on May 24, 1683 a solemn meeting was held and with a paper representing each of the suggested locations being put into a hat, one William Parsons drew the one representing the west side and decided the controversy to the satisfaction of all. The conscientious Town Clerk could not forbear from scribbling a memorandum on the records explaining how the man who wrote the names on the papers as well as the man who drew the winning one were both east-side residents, thus showing that there was no fraud or unfairness by the winning side!

The building was erected in 1683 in front of the burying ground at Hop Meadow. As was the custom of the times it stood sidewise to the highway with a single entrance in the side fronting the street. The pulpit was on the west side opposite the door. There were no pews but simply rude planks for seats. It is particularly fortunate for us today that the specifications for the building were so complete that in commemoration of the Connecticut Tercentenary it was possible for interested citizens with the aid of Federal Emergency Relief Administration funds to erect a full-scale reproduction of this original meeting house within a few feet of its original location to serve as headquarters for the Tercentenary celebration in this town. Standing in simple contrast to the large and

handsome, modern, Eno Memorial Hall illustrated on page 173 and the Congregational Church, both of which edifices are its lineal descendants, it is mute testimony to the march of time and the progress of civilization in our fair village in the last two hundred and fifty years.

Some forty years having elapsed since the above building was erected, it became too small to accommodate the people and was in need of repair. In 1725 a petition by the Simsbury town meeting caused the General Assembly to appoint Governor Joseph Talcott, Matthew Allyn, and Roger Wolcott a Committee to advise over the location of a new meeting house. They chose a spot at Bissell's Landing on the west side of the river (now Hoskins Station). This did not please the inhabitants and they commenced alternative proposals for a division of the town into church societies or parishes. Various surveys and locations were decided upon by various committees and as quickly rejected. For the information of the Assembly and the Committee a map of the town was prepared about 1730 showing the exact location of every house at that time, with streams, mountains and roads clearly defined. By consulting this map, which will be found opposite page 16, we can obtain a very clear picture of the problem confronting the people in making choice of a meeting house location. Care should be taken to orient the map correctly in accordance with the points of the compass represented in one corner inasmuch as the map does not run exactly north and south along its length. Special note should be made for future reference of such places as Great Fort and Shaw's Fort; the gristmill and sawmill, Hanover, and the meeting house at Hop Meadow; the location of the communities of Scotland, Turkey Hills (now East Granby), the Falls (now Tariffville), Salmon Brook (now Granby), and the two Weatogues. The scale of the map, three inches to the mile, is indicated at the top. A rare and valuable record, it is carefully preserved in the State Library at Hartford.

Using this map, further reports were drawn up and accepted by the Colonial Assembly but invariably negatived at the next town meeting. Finally exasperated by all the commotion the Assembly ordered the inhabitants of Simsbury to resort to the old meeting house for three years except that during the six winter months the residents at Turkey Hills could have their own temporary minister and be freed from taxes during that time for the support of the regular preacher. These "winter privileges" as they were termed were extended to others on the east side of the river for four months. But the fight waxed hotter and the clamor for settling the matter grew louder. A new committee appointed by the Assembly finally drew up a report that was accepted by the General Assembly and brought to a close the question of the division of the town into separate societies: The inhabitants of the southwest corner of Windsor with adjoining parts of Simsbury and Farmington were to be a society endowed with parish powers and privileges and known as Wintonbury ("Win" from Windsor, "ton" from Farmington, and "bury" from Simsbury); the Salmon Brook area was to comprise another society of that name northward of Saxton's Brook and westward of the present Granby-East Granby line; the northwest portion of the town was to be the Turkey Hills Society, now East Granby; the remaining portion was to be known as the First or Simsbury Society. With the groups of inhabitants narrowed down to societies it was thought to be an easy matter to locate the meeting houses in each district but even this caused renewed controversy and had to be settled by the General Assembly which proceeded to stake out places for the buildings at Turkey Hills in 1738 and Salmon Brook and Simsbury in 1739.

By this time the religious revival or "Great Awakening" was well under way and the contentions at Simsbury were quieted at a most propitious time. With renewed religious enthusiasm the inhabitants of each society went ahead with

plans for the erection of their separate meeting houses and the settling of different ministers. To thus build four churches, where there had been but one, and settle four new ministers was an added financial burden, which only their enthusiasm for the new religious teachings led them to shoulder. It is hard for us today to conceive of a fifteen-year controversy over such matters but our forefathers were men of strong minds and opinions and they easily drifted into a quarrel which destroyed social intercourse, interrupted religious worship, nearly broke up the church, caused their minister, whom they refused to pay, to leave the town for a time, brought down the severe condemnation of neighboring churches, and from 1731 to 1733 caused the General Assembly to refrain from appointing any justices of the peace in Simsbury because of the excited public feeling.

Now all was quiet once more and by 1743 the second Simsbury meeting house was entirely completed on Drake's Hill, the same site as now occupied by the present church building which was erected in 1830 at the time of another general revival. From 1739 on, all affairs of church in Simsbury were administered by the First Ecclesiastical Society and the separation of the religious life from the town government was formally instituted. In 1750 the southwest portion of Simsbury was set off as the Society of West Simsbury (now Canton). Prior to that in 1740 certain settlers over in Scotland (North Bloomfield) disgusted by the ecclesiastical controversies in Simsbury connected themselves with the Church of England and formed the Parish of St. Andrews, building a church there.

A very brief sketch indeed has been presented above concerning the intensely interesting period of ecclesiastical strife and growth. Hand in hand with it, however, and receiving but scant attention from former historians was the dividing up of the vast domain of Ancient Simsbury among its inhabitants and the quarrel occasioned in deciding whether undivided

or common land should be parcelled out to those then resident in the town, among them many newcomers, or to the original proprietors of Simsbury and their heirs and assigns only. It is quite probable that a careful investigation of the town records would unearth many a juicy tidbit of personal incident to enliven our understanding of our forebears and enlighten us on a subject of prime economic importance to them—land. Historian Phelps refers to a town meeting held in 1723 to divide the common land “which was continued for three successive days, and nearly one whole night.” Surely the subject matter of such a lengthy meeting is worthy of serious consideration by future historians. Such a work has been done by Leonard W. Labaree of New Haven in his excellent treatise “Milford, Conn.—The Early Development of a Town as Shown in its Land Records” recently published for the Connecticut Tercentenary Commission. Whatever brief evidence has been consulted seems to bear out the thought that the various steps in the physical settlement of Simsbury followed in general pattern that described so completely in the case of Milford. First came the homelots and adjacent acres fenced in and used for the immediate farming needs of the first settlers. All lands outside were held in common and used for indiscriminate grazing. The planters determined the size of the lots granted by “the rule of persons and estates” giving consideration to the size of a man’s estate, the amount he had contributed to the common expenses of settlement, the size of his family, and his prominence and ability as a leader.

The second step was the distribution of “out lands” as the growth of families and the increase in the number of mouths to feed required larger farms to supply the crops. The rule of persons and estates still held good but it was much modified by the system of “sizing” which was developed whereby the amount of land granted was made to compensate for differences in quality or remoteness of location. The last stage followed when a general law was enacted which vested the prop-

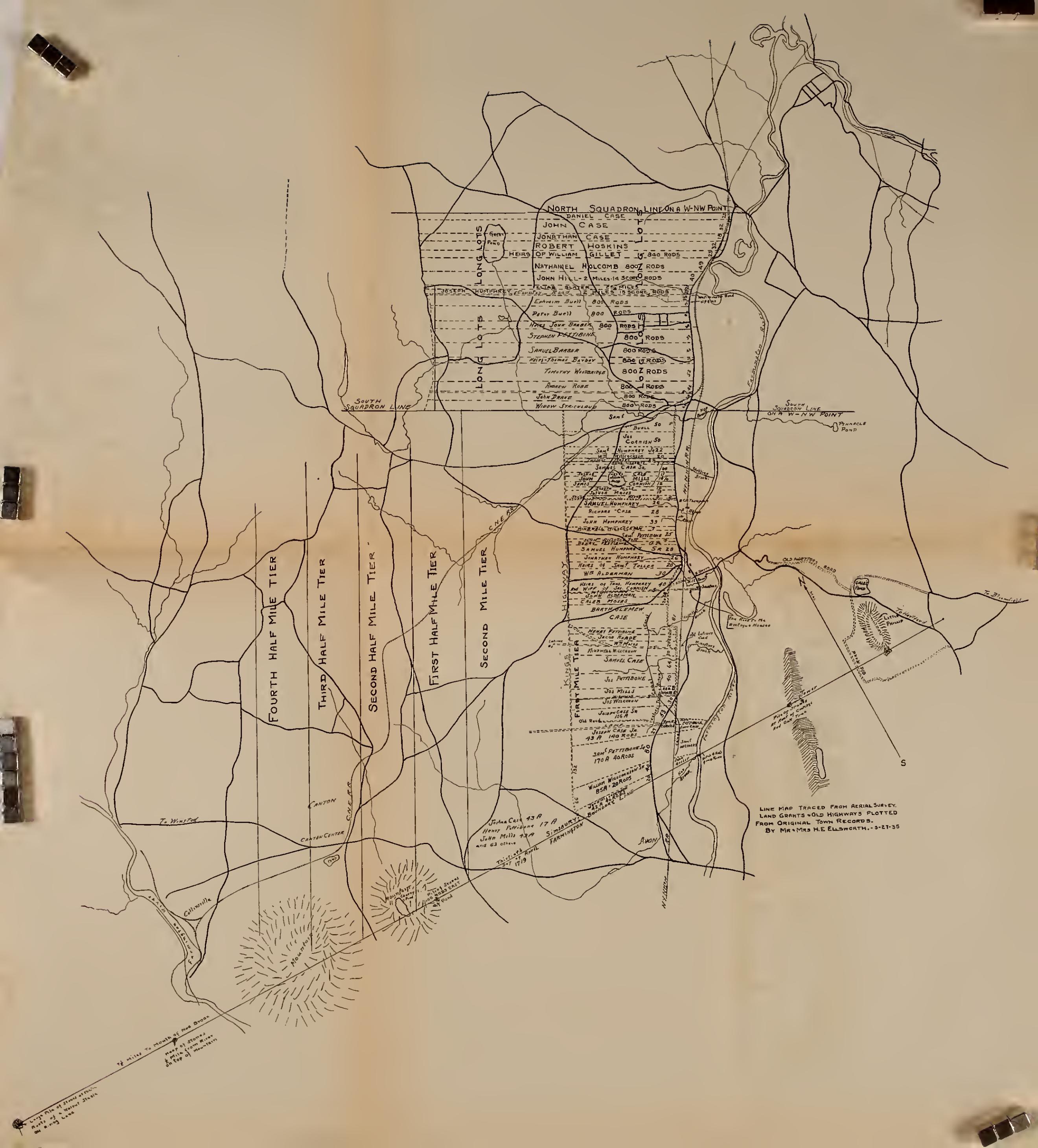
erty of unappropriated lands in the proprietors of the towns and their assigns who formed themselves into a proprietary body for the management of their lands.

We have already taken Simsbury through the first stage of physical settlement except for a brief mention of an unusual incident, the exchange of allotments. For the sake of greater security against possible Indian attack the Hop Meadow men proposed to the men of the Lower Meadows and Salmon Brook to exchange mutually a part of their lands by which means the latter would come and settle at Hop Meadow on the vacant house lots on the west side of Hopmeadow St. About sixteen accepted the proposition in 1689 and promised to move to Hop Meadow with their families within a year or forfeit ten pounds.

Most of the early allotments and divisions of land were in small quantities ranging from a few acres up to one hundred fifty acres. There were a half dozen or so who received amounts of two hundred acres each and the largest grant was to John Griffin in 1672, who was given an area commencing at the Falls and running northerly for a mile and one-half. This extraordinary grant was made in consideration of his resigning his Indian deeds to the proprietors of the town. On this land, which was always referred to as "Griffin's Lordship," but called by him "Homestead", Lord John built a home on a site now occupied by Moses E. Seymour at the northeast corner of the intersection formed by the Tariffville-Granby highway with the East Granby road. In addition to granting lands for special considerations, such as indicated above, the proprietors often gave land and the status of freemen to newcomers of special abilities as millers, ferrymen, and ministers. These men were made welcome and thus subsidized for the common good.

The exact date of the successive land division in Ancient Simsbury, which really marks the second period in the physical settlement, has not been worked out but Phelps mentions a

distribution in 1672, another in 1680, one at Salmon Brook in 1681, and one at Turkey Hills in 1688. At first each inhabitant was given an equal proportion but this was later considered unfair and such distributions rescinded by town vote. In all these land matters the people were as fickle as they were in voting different meeting house locations and there were votes and re-votes and fights galore. Finally in 1719 the Rev. Mr. Woodbridge, Capt. Thomas Holcomb, and Lieut. John Pettibone presented a report to the town, which was acted upon in 1722, giving the right of disposal of the common or undivided land first, to those who could derive their right from the General Assembly; secondly, to admitted inhabitants; and third, to those who "shall be hereafter admitted inhabitants with that right and power of disposal expressly inserted in the town's vote for admission." The town proceeded to sequester the remaining large tracts of land to be granted by a majority vote at a regular town meeting to the inhabitants proportionately on a basis of their taxable estate. This was indeed a considerable melon these land-hungry fathers of ours proceeded to cut themselves. Among 172 persons about 16,500 acres were divided in quantities varying from 20 to 300 acres. For the better division of the lands apparently earlier surveys had established so-called "squadron lines." Two well known lines were called the Weatogue Squadron line, starting near the mouth of Hop Brook and proceeding northwesterly to the west bounds of the town and the other, called the North Squadron line, running parallel to it in the approximate general vicinity and direction of Bissell's Brook at Hoskins Station. In long narrow tracts of land commencing on the west side of Hopmeadow St. at the South Squadron line and running westward parallel to the Squadron lines for at least eight hundred rods were laid out the famous "Long Lots." By consulting the map facing this page it is possible to get an idea of how these grants were laid out. Many of the highways exist today but many of them, having



fallen into disuse, are forgotten except that a careful perusal of aerial maps shows faint lines stretching back into the western hills. Here and there existing country roads seem to follow a straight course as if bounding some ancient grant. Probably the road from West Simsbury north to Firetown is the west boundary of the "Long Lots."

In addition to the "Long Lots" there were the "Tier Lots"—the "First Mile-Tier," "Second Mile-Tier," the "First Half-Mile Tier" and so on westward from the Weatogue-Hop Meadow road as a base. At a convenient location every mile or so a road was laid out to the west. One of these roads, now grown over, starts at the Charles Rowe place north of the old Meadow Plain Schoolhouse. Another proceeds westerly just north of Minister's Brook at the American Sumatra Plantation in Weatogue and comes in just south of the Walker School property. The dividing road between the first mile-tier and the second mile-tier to the west was called "the King's Highway" and in a general way followed the present highway from West Street at Simsbury to the Walker School where it left the present paved highway at the fork in the road just south of the school and proceeded southerly as the aerial maps show to this day. The under-mountain road from West Simsbury south is apparently the west bounds of the first half-mile tier slightly altered.

This system of distribution, of course, meant that the same individual might own, say, fifteen acres on Hopmeadow St., fifty acres in Weatogue, thirty acres in the first mile-tier, thirty acres in the second mile-tier, and fifteen acres in the first half-mile tier. Then came the inevitable disposal of these lands to sons and daughters or by exchange or outright sale. It seems obvious that there were plenty of temporal matters to occupy the time of our fathers as well as the spiritual matters so much emphasized by earlier commentators.

These acts of the town gave great offense to the heirs of the original proprietors and to some of the largest landholders

as they felt that having pioneered a settlement at their own risk they were entitled to own exclusively the undivided lands. To share these with whatever newcomers the rest of the inhabitants saw fit to vote in seemed grossly unfair. The three-day meeting referred to above in 1723 to divide the common lands brought matters to a head and a petition on behalf of the proprietors was referred to the General Assembly which eventually enacted a colony law vesting the property of unappropriated lands in the proprietors of the several towns and their assigns. This introduced the third phase of physical settlement in Simsbury when a proprietary body, holding annual meetings and having an executive or managing committee strangely resembling a modern corporation, took over control of the remaining lands and distributed them or the income derived from them among themselves as dividends. This method of land management persisted till about 1815 when, presumably all land being appropriated or otherwise disposed of, the corporation dissolved.

It must not be overlooked that lands in the Granby, Turkey Hills and the Canton areas of original Simsbury were also parcelled out in a similar manner to those described above as occurring in Simsbury and Weatogue. The first grants in the present Granby area were made in 1679 to thirteen persons but their building lots were located at Westover's Plain. In 1681 the town voted to divide a tract of land lying in the vicinity of Salmon Brook between Nathaniel Holcomb, Andrew Moore, Daniel Adams, Josiah Owen, Samuel Wilson, Josiah Ellsworth, Nathan Gillett, Michael Humphrey and a minister, provided they promised to reside upon their property for seven years. At least three of the above, including Josiah Ellsworth, never took up their grants.

In the Turkey Hills section in May 1688 a tier of lots lying in the eastern section of the town was granted to twenty-three different Simsbury men. In 1693, however, these

grants were annulled by a vote of the town because they were not taken up according to contract. In all probability the settlement of Turkey Hills did not commence until 1700.

As far as Canton was concerned the lands were granted out as early as 1680 as Major Talcott received land there in payment for obtaining the Indian deed. The first homes were built in the period immediately following the settling of Richard Case in 1737.

We have seen how in 1736 Granby was set off as the Northwest Society and Turkey Hills as the Northeast Society, and how by 1750 Canton had grown enough to have parish privileges granted to it. These ecclesiastical divisions made the people in each area feel much more independent and it is not surprising to find them petitioning for formal political separation. In 1786 Granby, which included the former Salmon Brook and Turkey Hills districts, was incorporated as a separate town. Turkey Hills did not become the town of East Granby until its separation from Granby in 1858. Canton became a separate township in 1806.

Henceforth in our history of Simsbury, from the time when these various sections became incorporated as separate towns, we shall consider only the history of the territory now embraced by present-day or modern Simsbury.

That original Simsbury was a town of consequence is seen from various enumerations taken during the latter part of the period covered by this chapter.

<i>Population</i>		<i>Amount of Estates</i>
1756	2,245	1750 £19,466
1774	3,700	1760 22,976
1782	4,664	1770 28,700
1790	2,576 (Granby out)	1780 37,239
1800	2,956	1801 \$63,829
1810	1,966 (Canton out)	1810 31,008

It is unfortunate that time will not permit the compilation of a complete tabulation to show the increase of population and the economic growth of Ancient Simsbury during the eighteenth century.

¶ Progress to Manhood Continued — a Brief Sketch of a Century and a Quarter of Military Activity and Intermittent Warfare, 1690-1815.

IN this day and age of pacifist talk we are prone to deprecate wars no matter what the causes of them may be. To be realistic about it, however, it is most probable that our views are colored by the prevailing internationalistic outlook. When pressed too hard in argument, we are usually forced to admit that aggressive warfare against other nations is the particular object of our condemnation, not defensive warfare which, although unpleasant to contemplate, is nevertheless a necessity that could easily become a sacred cause. We live in such comparative security today that it is hard to visualize having to fight for our lands and homes. Perhaps that is the reason it is so difficult properly to interpret the historical phases of the two great colonial conflicts, the French and Indian Wars and the Revolution. Our forefathers hewed a civilization out of a great wilderness. They erected their cabins at the very threshold of the Indian wigwam. The hard-won home and newly-gained lands were not to be yielded to the Indian and the alien French without

a struggle, nor was the exploitation of this new civilization and its natural wealth from forest and mine, by an imperialistic mother-country for its own selfish benefit, to be tolerated without a fight for independence.

The successful conclusion of King Philip's War did not entirely remove the menace of the Indian. In all the period from 1677 to 1763 there was a constant struggle between the French and the English for control of the American Continent. The French in a very skilful manner made firm allies of the Indians and sent them on repeated marauding expeditions against the frontier towns of the English in neighboring New York and Massachusetts. The English Colonists, primarily preoccupied in settlement rather than fur trading and exploration, were not very aggressive in working out a plan for their general safety. In addition they were highly independent in spirit and jealous lest military interference by their mother-country would work towards too much domination of their economic life. This lack of cooperation between the colonies and England and the latter's lack of a coordinated plan of military support for her new plantations tended to prolong the various French and Indian wars rather than otherwise. Most of the efforts made, therefore, by such plantations as those in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York were local, loosely evolved and small in scope. Information on this period concerning Connecticut, and Simsbury in particular, is scant.

In the year 1689 it was ascertained that the Indians sent by the French were threatening Albany. Simsbury, being a frontier town, was exposed, of course, to this threat; hence the moving of the Granby settlement to Hop Meadow by the "exchange of allotments" noted in a previous chapter. About this time the train bands were being built up and of the nine in Hartford County one was composed entirely of Simsbury men, although it was not until 1698 that a full military company could be formed with a captain at its head.

This company consisted of seventy-seven men officered by Capt. John Higley, Lieut. Thomas Barber, Ensign Samuel Humphrey, and Sergeants Daniel Adams and James Hillyer. In addition to a militia certain houses were placed in a condition of defense and referred to as "forts." In times of greatest alarm these houses undoubtedly lodged a garrison and might have been protected by a palisade. According to Phelps there exists record evidence that the parsonage house in Hop Meadow was thus fortified in 1690 and in 1700. Tradition mentions also the Bestor house at Weatogue, a block house at Hoskins Station in the neighborhood of Saxton's Brook, a block house in Salmon Brook, and one or two at Turkey Hills. A supply of ammunition, which was destroyed by accidental burning, was kept at one time on the site of the present home of Miss Mary Eno in East Weatogue.

Following a five-year period of comparative quiet, in 1702 commenced another outburst of war, which lasted till 1713. The Council of War in February 1707 passed the following resolutions, which give an inkling of the problem of providing security for a frontier settlement such as Simsbury: "Resolved, for the preservation of the frontier townes of Symbsury, Waterbury, Woodbury and Danbury, that order be sent to the Inhabitants of those townes to provide, with all possible speed, a sufficient number of well fortified houses, for the saftie of themselves and families in their respective townes; The houses for fortifications to be appointed by the vote of the major part of the Inhabitants of such respective townes assembled, if they can agree,—in case of their disagreement, to be appointed by the commission officers of the towne."

"The Scouts in Symbsury to be appointed and directed by the Major of the Countie. The charges to be borne by the Countie, as by law is provided."

"Two faithful and trusty men, as a scout to be out every day, to observe the motions of the enemy."

Later on in 1707 the Assembly granted seven pounds from the treasury to fortify Simsbury, for an alarm had been given of an impending attack. Apparently the train band had been called out for action, as further funds were advanced in 1708 to pay the Simsbury soldiers employed under Capt. John Higley in the public service. What this public service was is not clear, but we might surmise that it had some relation to that fascinating story of the captivity of Daniel Hayes as described so fully and authoritatively by Noah A. Phelps in his "History". It was during a corn-husking party at the Hayes home in Salmon Brook that young Daniel, then twenty-two, spoke of setting out the next morning to search for his horse in the forests westerly of the settlement. Apparently this information reached a lurking band of Indians who, either out of revenge for a past misdemeanor by Hayes, or as part of a plot against the community, seized Hayes as he went looking for his horse in the vicinity of Stony Hill just westerly of Salmon Brook Street and bore him off. The first night was spent near the foot of Sodom Mountain west of Southwick, the second night near Mt. Holyoke across the Connecticut River and so on, day by day, until his captors reached Canada. There he lived for a time among the Indians, ran the usual "gauntlet" and shared their routine life, being adopted by a squaw. Eventually he was sold to a Frenchman in Montreal, obtained his release and some money, and finally reached home safely, after a seven years' absence, to recount his experiences and take an active part in the community in which he lived and where he died in 1756 at the age of seventy-one.

The occurrence of such an incident might well account for the calling out of the Simsbury train band in pursuit and for an appropriation of fifty pounds for the procuring of dogs in northern frontier towns to assist in protection against the Indian menace and as a help in their pursuit and capture. As a further protection, in 1708 the war committee was empow-

ered to erect two garrisons in Simsbury at colony expense. These two fortifications were probably the "Great Fort" and "Shaw's Fort", as shown on the 1730 map. The former was located on the plain north of Saxton's Brook, now the Floydville Plantation of the American Sumatra Tobacco Company easterly of the present College Highway; the latter was located easterly of Manatuck Mountain and north of the highway leading from the west through Manatuck Mountain to Hungary. This general period of alarm culminated first, in a scouting expedition sent out towards Lake George with instructions to bring back Indian scalps for which a reward of ten pounds each would be given, and secondly, in an ill-fated expedition for the reduction of Canada in 1711, and lastly, in sending a force of men to Hampshire County in Massachusetts to oppose the Indians there. A part of the expedition was recruited in Simsbury and sent north under Lieut. Samuel Humphrey.

In 1716 the Simsbury militia was divided into two companies with the north company officered by Capt. Thomas Holcomb and the south company by Richard Case.

The last alarm for the pioneer community of Simsbury was in 1723 when word came that Massachusetts was having trouble with her Indians and there was danger that sympathetic tribes might invade Connecticut. Hostile movements by Indians around Litchfield and the information that three hundred French Indians were on the war path from Lake Champlain brought matters to a head and the Committee of War ordered Major Talcott to ride upon the frontiers from Hartford to New Milford with three hundred men. A line of scouts was established to range the woods from Simsbury west to the Housatonic. In all these activities Simsbury had to play its part. A military watch was established whenever an alarm was given. On June 4, 1724 Capt. Richard Case was directed to employ ten men on the Litchfield scouting expedition—all ten being Simsbury men. Another force of eighteen

men was employed in the summer to join the grand scout and a garrison was established at Turkey Hills where an alarm, occurring on July 12, aroused the Council to send over forty-one soldiers from Windsor and twenty-six from Hartford. Fortunately for Connecticut she had adjusted any difficulties with her local Indian inhabitants and they remained friendly and cooperated in the defense. An interesting feature of this relationship was that when the tension was at its greatest, the friendly Indians were forbidden to hunt north of a line extending from Farmington to Woodbury and when the worst fears of attack were over, they were permitted to hunt again as usual, provided they wore a white band on their head for identification. In 1726 came a peace which lasted for fourteen years, bringing much relief to the hard-pressed settlers and giving them their first opportunity to devote their entire energies to settlement and to building up their enterprises.

By 1737 there were three companies of infantry in Simsbury totalling 202 men under Captain James Cornish, Benjamin Adams and John Lewis. At that time the Hartford County "regiment" totalled 3,480 infantry and 106 cavalry. Two years later the military force was reorganized and tactical units of 64 men each, known as companies, were set up. At that time the Simsbury force was in the First Regiment. All this military organization was established none too soon as in the period from 1740 to 1763 the colonists embarked upon the second or aggressive phase of the French and Indian wars. The war was no longer a local fight for supremacy between the French Colonists and the English settlers. It became an international conflict between England, on the one hand, and France and Spain on the other, and the American continent seemed a logical place for each mother-nation best to injure her enemy. With the home government in England now thoroughly aroused more ambitious projects were launched to carry the fight aggressively against the Spanish settle-

ments and forts as well as the French. The feeling seemed to be that the best defense was a successful offense. Numerous expeditions were outfitted. In 1740 a volunteer force tried and failed to capture Cartagena, a possession of Spain on the north coast of South America, although they did take Havana only to be finally defeated by the inroads of malaria, which in a short space of time reduced a force of one thousand men to a total of one hundred. In 1745 a call was issued to raise a force for the subjugation of Fort Louisburg on Cape Breton Island off Nova Scotia, which commanded the approach to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the trade route from French Canada to France. Roger Wolcott of Windsor was put in command of the four hundred Connecticut volunteers and Samuel Pettibone of Simsbury was appointed an Ensign in one of the companies of infantry. Louisburg was captured but a peace signed in 1748 restored it to France.

The culminating struggle for colonial power came in 1756 with the bloody French and Indian War. The English and their colonists decided first, to subdue New France by attacks on their chief defenses at Louisburg, Quebec, and Montreal and secondly, to wrest from Spain her West Indies supremacy. A company was raised in Simsbury to go to the protection of Crown Point on Lake Champlain and Jonathan Humphrey was appointed first lieutenant. Another expedition went to the assault of Quebec and Montreal. The regiment from Connecticut was under General Lyman of Suffield and a company was raised from Simsbury and environs under Capt. Noah Humphrey. They took active part in the capture of Montreal in 1760. Again in 1762 Capt. Noah Humphrey raised a company of forty-seven men which joined Gen. Lyman in the ill-fated expedition to capture Havana. Though successful in taking the city in 1762, malaria took a tremendous toll of life. Less than twenty-five of the original Simsbury Company returned and of the fourteen men belonging to what is now

Granby twelve died. Of the 802 men in General Lyman's regiment only forty were fit for duty when the expedition set sail for home and there had been 342 deaths.

By the terms of the treaty of Paris in 1763 French Canada was ceded to the English and, in return for Havana, the Spanish yielded Florida. Thus ended a war for the protection of existing British colonial lands and settlements on the Atlantic seaboard and the consolidation of their position. The immediate impetus that made our forefathers eager to enlist in the French and Indian wars and to give freely of their money and labors was the common fear of eventual political domination by the French and the immediate danger of losing their crops, their homes, and their very lives at the hands of the savage Indians.

There now succeeded a second important era in the military progress of our history which we call the Revolution. This great war was not so much motivated by the necessity for the colonists to defend their lands and homes as it was by the necessity to preserve their liberty of action in industry and trade and to keep alive some freedom of thought and action in local self-government. This latter, after all, was one of the very reasons (although tinged, to be sure with religious bias) why they had come to this remote land a hundred and fifty years previous. Even the pacifist of today can look with equanimity upon the Revolution as a defensive war wherein the colonists protected themselves against what they thought to be an unjust economic attack.

The specific causes of the war are well-known to all of us. As early as 1765 the Stamp Act was passed to raise funds in the colonies with which to defray some of the expenses of defending them. This created tremendous popular opposition because, in the first place, the colonists did not consider that the assistance they received from England in the prior French and Indian wars had been efficient, expeditious, or economical; and secondly, the colonists were not represented in the body-

politic of the mother-country that sought to lay the taxes. The cry became "No taxation without representation!"

All through this period as the colonies grew and prospered they turned their hands to manufacture and trade. The people of England, engaged in similar endeavors, naturally wished to obtain only raw materials from the colonies and to manufacture the finished goods at home where their own factories and laborers could derive the benefit. This led to restrictive measures forbidding the manufacture of copper, steel and many articles fabricated from them. Finally a series of import duties levied on tea, sugar, lead, glass, and other commodities, which were obtainable by the colonists only from other countries, culminated in open resentment; occasioned riots, such as the "Boston Massacre," "Boston Tea Party" and the "Gaspee Incident"; and brought about the "Port of Boston Bill" of March 1774. The port of Boston was closed to all commerce by this bill and naturally the livelihood of many of its citizens was seriously jeopardized. If this was a sample of what might result from differences with the intolerant mother-country, it was high time to take a stand lest tyranny and oppression go much further and curtail other privileges and charter rights. This general thought was uppermost in Americans' minds at the time and the Committees of Correspondence, as they were called, kept the fires of opposition well kindled by their propaganda.

The first move in Simsbury was the calling of a town meeting on Aug. 11, 1774 when resolutions were drawn up which so concisely and intelligently state the current problem of the day that they are herewith reproduced in full:

This meeting, taking into consideration the unhappy difference and contention arisen between the British ministry and the Province of Massachusetts Bay, especially the arbitrary proceedings against the town of Boston, by the act called the "Boston Port Bill" and an armed force blocking up their harbor, stopping their trade, etc., and considering our near connections with said province, and how much our trade

and interest is affected thereby, do judge ourselves loudly called upon to make the following declarations and resolves, viz.:

That the charter privileges granted to this country by King Charles II., and transmitted to us by our virtuous predecessors, who ventured their lives and fortunes, and every desirable enjoyment to acquire, we esteem as our birth-right sacred to ourselves, and our posterity; and that none has right to disturb us in the enjoyment of them; which privileges we are determined to hold and transmit to generations to come against all opposition whatsoever.

That as faithful and loyal subjects of his Britannick Majesty, King George III., we are ready to contribute constitutionally for the support of his royal person or government, according to our ability, yet nevertheless we judge that the Parliament of Great Britain has no legal right to lay Taxes or Duties on our persons or properties without our consent. Therefore we resolve that our brethren and friends in Boston are now suffering under the cruel hands of oppression and arbitrary government in having been condemned unheard contrary to Magna Charta and the Royal Charter which had been granted to said province.

We therefore, from a tender feeling for the poor inhabitants of that Great Town of Boston, do judge it our duty to contribute of our substance for their relief under their present sufferings.

Furthermore, this meeting concur and approve of a General Congress from the several colonies and plantations in North America to be convened at Philadelphia, in September next, agreeable to the resolves of several towns already published relating to a non-importation agreement from Great Britain, etc.

We likewise concur with our neighboring towns that a harmony and correspondence be propagated and maintained between the several towns in this and neighboring colonies for their mutual advice and assistance as occasion shall call for. Therefore, Col. Jonathan Pettibone, John Owen, Esq., Col. Jonathan Humphrey, Judah Holcomb, Esq., Mr. Joel Hayes, Mr. Ashel Holcomb, Mr. Ezekiel Phelps, Oliver Humphrey, Esq., and Capt. Amos Wilcocks were chosen a committee of correspondence for the purpose aforesaid.

This meeting further resolve that a subscription be speedily opened for all well-disposed persons to show their readiness to contribute for the relief of the poor distressed inhabitants of Boston, in such articles as

each subscriber shall judge proper and their circumstances will best admit of. And the aforesaid gentlemen, the committee of correspondence, are chosen a committee to open and encourage and take in such subscriptions, and the said committee are to receive said donations and to transmit the same to the Selectmen of the Town of Boston or to such other person or persons as the Town shall appoint, taking their receipt for the same, to be improved for the purpose aforesaid.

The foregoing passed nemine contradicente and to be published in the "Connecticut Courant."

Certified by

John Owen, Town Clerk.

Events moved swiftly from this point on and before anyone half realized it overt acts were committed that definitely started the colonists on a path from which there was no returning. First came the alarm at Lexington on April 19, 1775 and shortly after this, three militia companies left Simsbury officered by Captains Zaccheus Gillet, Amos Wilcox and Lemuel Roberts. A hundred volunteers under Capt. Abel Pettibone hastened to Boston and joined the command of Col. Spencer of East Haddam, being stationed at Roxbury during the siege of Boston until their service expired in December 1775. At the battle of Bunker Hill many Simsbury men saw service. Immediately after the battle Capt. Elihu Humphrey, whom we remember as an old French and Indian campaigner, raised a company of seventy-five men and marched to Boston. Not all were from Simsbury, however, but several of his officers were undoubtedly good and trusted Simsbury friends such as Lieut. Hillyer, Sergeants Aaron Pinney, Jacob Tuller, and Daniel Higley, and Clerk of the Roll, Jonathan Humphrey, Jr. A lively and moving description of the formation of this company and their expedition to Boston is contained in Rev. Daniel Barber's, "A History of My Own Times." Lack of space will not permit quoting it. The company assembled at the house of Capt. Humphrey (now the residence of Miss Caroline Eno opposite the High School),

received their orders, then in full accoutrement marched to the meeting house on Drake's Hill to listen to a farewell sermon by the Rev. Mr. Pitkin of Farmington. Whether the soldiers then proceeded down the Pent Road to a ford or a ferry crossing is not certain, but the Simsbury Historical Society has a bookplate which depicts in a spirited manner the last farewells as the militia crossed the river on their way to Boston. A characteristic passage from the above-mentioned account by Barber paints vividly the hardships of the march as the rawboned, untrained, Yankee farmers hurried on their way:

In our march through Connecticut the inhabitants seemed to view us with tokens of joy and gladness, and by them we were treated with a common civility, and a respect due us as soldiers; but when we came to Massachusetts and advanced nearer to Boston, the inhabitants wherever we stopped seemed to have no better opinion of us than if we had been a banditti of rogues and thieves. . . . After about nine or ten days marching in company with our ox-team, loaded with our salt pork, peas, and candlestick bottoms for bread, and a barrel of rum to cheer our spirits and wash our feet, which began to be very sore by travelling, we came to Roxbury, the place of our destination. There the place of our encampment was already marked out, and a part of our regiment on the spot. For every six soldiers there was a tent provided. The ground it covered was about six or seven feet square. This served for kitchen, parlor, and hall. The green turf covered with a blanket was our bed and bedstead. When we turned in for the night we had to lie perfectly straight like candles in a box; this was not pleasant to our hip-bones and knee-joints, which often in the night would wake us, and beg to turn over. Our household utensils, altogether, were an iron pot, a canteen, or wooden bottle holding two quarts, a pail, and wooden bowl. Each had to do his own washing and take his turn at the cookery.

An incident dear to the hearts of all schoolboys is the romantic capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain boys in the spring of 1775. It is a particular source of pride for Simsbury that a native son played a little

known but decisively important role in this brilliant exploit. Convinced that the British were planning to split New England from the rest of the colonies by a descent south from Canada, some shrewd Yankees met in Hartford and decided on a plan to capture and hold the forts of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in the Lake Champlain region. Among sixteen men chosen from Connecticut was Capt. Noah Phelps, who was born in Simsbury in the residence now occupied by Miss Mary Eno in East Weatogue. The force being joined by Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen with approximately 140 more volunteers, they unanimously chose Allen leader of the expedition before marching on to Lake Champlain. Meantime Capt. Phelps was sent on to spy out the condition of the fort. Stopping for the night at a tavern nearby he overheard important hints as to the strength of the fortress, which were let drop by the members of a convivial drinking party in the room adjoining his bedroom. Early in the morning he obtained entrance to the fort ostensibly to be shaved by the barber there, and managed to engage the commandant in a conversation regarding the commotion in the colonies and the progress of the rebellion. Capt. Phelps, seeing a portion of the wall of the fort poorly kept up, remarked that it would offer a rather weak defense against attack. The commandant replied, "Yes, but that is not our greatest misfortune, for all our powder is damaged and before we can use it we are obliged to sift and dry it and even then it is not to be relied upon."

With this significant information Phelps was eager to get back to Ethan Allen with the news. Hiring a boatman to ferry him across the lake he grew impatient and urged the boatman to hurry up. The boatman still not showing enough zeal at the oars Phelps restrained himself no longer and now that they were out of sight of the fort took an oar himself. As he was of great strength the craft went skimming over the waves much to the amazement and suspicion of his companion. Probably afraid of Phelps' husky stature the boatman kept his

suspicions about the matter to himself and the craft reached the opposing shore and the rebel forces without further incident. Bearing this news to Allen a decision was rapidly reached to make a surprise attack. To quote from Bancroft's "History of the United States" the capture was effected in the following manner:

The men were therefore drawn up in three ranks, and, as the first beams of morning broke upon the mountain peaks, Allen addressed them: "Friends and fellow soldiers, we must this morning quit our pretensions to valor, or possess ourselves of this fortress; and, insomuch as it is a desperate attempt, I do not urge it on, contrary to will. You that will undertake voluntarily poise your firelock."

At the word every firelock was poised. "Face to the right," cried Allen; and, placing himself at the head of the center file, Arnold keeping emulously at his side, he marched to the gate. It was shut, but the wicket was open. The sentry snapped a fusil at him. The Americans rushed into the fort, darted upon the guards, and, raising the Indian war-whoop, such as had not been heard there since the days of Montcalm, formed on the parade in hollow square, to face each of the barracks. One of the sentries, after wounding an officer, and being slightly wounded himself, cried out for quarter, and showed the way to the apartment of the commander. "Come forth instantly or I will sacrifice the whole garrison," cried Ethan Allen as he reached the door.

At this, Delaplace, the commander, came out undressed with his breeches in his hand. "Deliver the fort to me instantly," said Allen. "By what authority," asked Delaplace. "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress," answered Allen.

Delaplace began to speak again, but was peremptorily interrupted; and at the sight of Allen's drawn sword near his head, he gave up the garrison, ordering his men to be paraded without arms. Thus Ticonderoga, which cost the British nation eight million sterling, a succession of campaigns, and many lives, was won in ten minutes by a few undisciplined volunteers, without the loss of life or limb.

In 1776 the General Assembly recognized Phelps' valor as a warrior and appointed him Captain of a company to be raised for the Continental Army. In 1777 he became Lieut. Colonel and later he became Major General of the

Militia. Without question Noah Phelps is one of Simsbury's noted heroes.

In the campaign around New York in the summer of 1776 Simsbury men played their part. The whole militia company under Capt. Job Case marched to New Haven and embarked there by boat for Long Island where they landed at Flatbush and became a part of the 18th Regiment under Col. Jonathan Pettibone, Sr., and Lieut. Col. Jonathan Humphrey, Sr. The campaign resulted in a retreat and the abandonment of New York to the British. En route home from New York Colonel Pettibone, who was then sixty-six, died and was buried in a cemetery in New Rochelle, although there is a stone to his memory to be found in the Hop Meadow burying ground in Simsbury. In the Battle of Long Island Elihu Humphrey, by then a major, was wounded, taken prisoner and confined in the barbarous "Sugar House" where the wretched treatment he received seriously undermined his health. Soon after his release and return to Simsbury he died, at the age of thirty-eight, and was buried at Hop Meadow, where his gravestone may be seen.

From the cumulative experience derived from the first year of warfare the militia system was reorganized and in December 1776 a grouping into divisions and brigades was introduced. Simsbury troops, officered by Col. Jonathan Humphrey, formed the 18th Regiment, which was in the First Brigade. According to Dr. Barber the combined force of men serving either in the militia or the Continental line from Simsbury amounted to approximately 861 men of whom 264, belonging to the 18th Regiment of militia, saw service in 1777 in the Continental Army.

The social consequences of the war upon those at home offers a fertile field for investigation by the historian. By consulting old records of town meetings and other documents, interesting sidelights are obtained such as these that we shall relate briefly. In the first flush of war enthusiasm it was com-

paratively easy to obtain recruits but as the years went by and popular discouragement increased this became more difficult. Accordingly a plan was devised whereby those that stayed at home joined in proportional payments for the hiring of Continental soldiers to fight for them. In 1781 at a town meeting two individuals were voted down on the proposal that they be excused from paying their share of such a hire. It was "Voted, that David Edwards, Isaach Eno, Jared Merrill & Martin Humphrey, Thomas Barber 2nd, Robert Mason, and Thomas Barber 3rd, and John Pike, they and each of them, each of them refusing to pay their proportion in procuring Continental soldiers in their respective classes in which they belong, shall be and are now doomed to pay double sums to their respective classes, as assigned to them, and to be collected as the law directs." One reads between the lines here a rebellion of some magnitude sternly suppressed by the local democracy.

The shortage of commodities was one effect of the war which caused hardship upon the populace. Trade with England and other nations was at a standstill and home manufactures were crude and small, factors which produced high prices on account of the scarcity of goods and labor. The General Assembly had to fix prices and take drastic punitive action against oppressive monopoly. One necessity in particular was scarce, namely, salt. The Selectmen were empowered to seize the stores of any monopolizer or hoarder within a town and to distribute them to the needy inhabitants at a price fixed by law. No family could get over half a bushel of salt. A bounty was given to stimulate its manufacture and many a coast town had its salt works. Private cargo boats were pressed into service to trade for salt and their cargoes were divided up among the towns of the colony as indicated by the record of the Dec. 1st, 1777, meeting of the town of Simsbury: "Voted that the respective School Committeemen in the several societies in this town and in the respective districts are

directed to exhibit an account of the number belonging to each family and to exhibit the said number as soon as may be to the present Selectmen in order that the town's salt may be equally divided."

With husbands, sons and fathers off to the war, with taxes mounting daily, with foodstuffs and other necessities selling at scarcity prices, and with labor on the farms at a premium, those that were supporting the rebellion cannot be blamed for their ill-will towards a social group that disapproved of the war—the so-called Tories or Loyalists. Most of us have wondered how our forefathers decided whether they would cast their lot with the uncertain rebels in a fight to a finish with a great powerful nation like Britain or would stay loyal to king and mother-country. The rebel cause must have seemed a hopeless one if they had stopped to reason about it. There were many in Connecticut of great intelligence and high character who did reason about it and who felt that for the long view it was still desirable that the infant colonies should stay under the protecting wing of England. This was especially true of the professional and intellectual classes, the people of property, travel and education, doctors, and Anglican ministers. To them the various economic restrictions of England had done no special harm and taxes were to be expected in a well-ordered government. In their opinion rebellion was but undignified rioting by a band of ruffians. In the north the growing band of Anglicans was closely tied by sentimental bonds to the Church of England. It is quite curious that the Anglican clergy of Connecticut and their people were so strenuous in opposition to the Revolution while most of the rebel leaders in Virginia including George Washington were loyal adherents of the Church of England. The reason is found in the preceding century and a half of New England history. Massachusetts and Connecticut were originally settled by people driven out of England by the ecclesiastical tyranny of the Anglican Church. The infiltration of Anglicans into a country

hewn out of a wilderness by the pioneer Congregationalists seemed to many a menace to the principles for which our fore-fathers migrated to America. Their pre-Revolutionary conflicts over the right to support a separate church from the Congregationalists, their efforts to obtain a Bishop for America, and their failure to support the move for liberty brought upon them the disfavor of most of the colonists. The chances are, however, that most of us would have been rebels. Accustomed as we would have been to independent existence as farmers, to self-government in town meeting, where we levied taxes on ourselves for our mutual good, to our own religion, which the Anglicans scorned, and to our small enterprises for the manufacture and development of our colonial requirements, we would have been goaded by many pin-pricks, in the form of laws, royal governors, taxes, and what not, seldom of our own choosing. In our resentment and feeling of martyrdom we would almost inevitably have joined common cause with our fellowmen in defense against unjust attack by a harsh parent.

Very early in the Revolution Simsbury chose a Committee of Inspection to keep a watch on the movements of local Loyalists. Laws were passed to disarm, disfranchise, and imprison them if they were guilty of traitorous conduct. Apparently many were, as Newgate Prison by 1776 was pretty well filled with Tory prisoners and the guards had to be increased. Serious opposition was met by the confiscation of Tory estates. For these various reasons many citizens, who might later have been very valuable in time of peace, were frightened out of Connecticut and took refuge within the British lines or emigrated to Nova Scotia.

The most noted Simsbury Tory was a very courageous man of excellent character and amiable disposition by the name of Roger Viets, rector of St. Andrew's Church in Scotland district. Accused in 1777 of having assisted Loyalist prisoners to escape from Newgate Prison, he was impris-

oned for four months and fined twenty pounds. For eight more months he was allowed out at large within the town lines of Simsbury on a bond of £1,000 provided he would promise not to "do or say anything against the United States of America or detrimental to their interest." Later he removed to Nova Scotia where he died.

At the successful close of the War in 1783 there ensued a period of experimental government, leading eventually to the adoption of the Constitution and our present system of states. Then, as now, arose a great agitation for "bonus" payments to the soldiers. An interesting precedent for present day politicians is seen in the town meeting held in Simsbury on July 2, 1783. The great Simsbury hero and soldier, Col. Noah Phelps, was chosen moderator of the meeting to decide whether the officers of the Continental Army ought to receive all arrears in pay due them for their service or whether their "half pay for life" pension should be commuted to a "bonus" of five years' full pay to be disbursed at once. The meeting resolved first, that the officers ought to have full and just satisfaction for the actual time they served their country *and no longer*; second, that their previous wages were fair and just; third, that any additional pensions would be *dangerous, alarming, and unconstitutional*; fourth, that in all grants of money legislatures ought to follow carefully the *majority* opinion of their constituents; fifth, that the town instruct its representatives to *oppose the "bonus"*; sixth, that if other towns feel the same way they "*resolve not to pay ye same in anywise*"; seventh, "Tis the opinion of this meeting to raise monies by imposts and excise is detrimental to ye trade of this State and is levying and collecting a tax on the inhabitants of this State without their consent, and therefore we think proper to oppose it."

Having just emerged from a long war waged against the powers of a privileged and pensioned aristocracy our sturdy, independent forefathers, in solemn town meeting led

by an army officer who would have benefited by the very bill under discussion, voted down a measure which appeared to them to set up special privileges for a favored group of citizens. This took courage and it showed an intelligent understanding of the long-range effects of class legislation. We can be thankful that our sturdy forebears looked at the common good and sternly rejected special privilege. It is curious how history repeats itself and we find the "bonus" problem of 1935 an active subject for debate. We can only hope that our approach to its settlement will be as intelligent and positive as that of the early town fathers.

Following the settlement of the "commutation" agitation the next burning public question was whether Simsbury would instruct its delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1788 to ratify the proposed United States Constitution. With the "New Deal" before us today and the recent words of the Supreme Court ringing in our ears opposing many of the projects of the present administration, which seemingly encroach upon states' rights and individual freedom of action, we cannot help but admire the prophetic wisdom and foresight of the people of Simsbury in the resolutions so aptly expressed in rejecting the proposed Constitution: "and after deliberating on the subject it was voted by said meeting that it was the sense and opinion of the same that to adopt the proposed constitution would institute and erect an aristocracy which they fear would end in despotism and tyranny, and extinguish or nearly absorb our ancient charter privileges ever sacred and dear to us, and instead of lessening our taxes and burdens it would greatly increase and augment them and finally prove destructive of our most valuable liberties and privileges" The spirit of intelligent conservatism and the dignified and clear statement of local feelings on a much debated subject permeates the resolution and gives us today not only a pride in the way our forefathers governed

themselves but gives us an inspirational hope that we today can measure up to the high standards thus set before us.

As the finishing touch in the progress of Simsbury to manhood comes the War of 1812. Still distrustful of the new national government and wrapped up in trade and commerce with the former home country, New England had little sympathy with the cause and refused to lend the support of troops or money to fight the British except in the defense of New England soil. Little information is available on any specific action on the part of the town, and presumably most of the activity was political rather than military. From these three wars the American people emerged as a nation with a sound government and with a profound respect for the principles and ideals of self-government, peace, and security—priceless possessions which we are likely to overlook. We are fortunate today that we can take the occasion of the celebration of the Connecticut Tercentenary to look back at the achievements of the past and to refresh ourselves by drinking at the fountain of our forefathers' wisdom.

*¶ A Discourse on Colonial
Homes and Folkways.*

AS we have traced the political and religious growth of Simsbury from the earliest days up to the beginning of the nineteenth century we have not paused long enough to give more than an inkling of how the people lived. We know, of course, that they led a simple and frugal life and for them every penny saved was a hard-won victory. That the Americans were idealists is seen by their championing of the cause of liberty in the Revolutionary War; that they were spiritual is seen in their preoccupation with religious affairs; but that they were also human and loved their homes, cherished their families, played their games, and sought to raise their standards of living and culture, by education and the application of science towards the making of a more abundant life, is also worthy of our recognition.

Colonial social development divides naturally into two periods. The first is the era of home manufacture when every farm was practically a self-contained economic unit. From it came the crops for food, timber for shelter and furniture, and livestock which the colonists used for food, for transportation, for clothing, and for trading purposes. In this period customs and manners were simple, rather crude, and rough; little time

was left for the pursuit of pleasure. The second period of colonial life is evidenced by the spread of Yankee ingenuity and the multiplication of the manufacture of specialized products for sale. Factories, turning out finished articles of great necessity or convenience, took the place of home manufacture and the Yankee tin peddler came into his own. More real social and cultural development occurred in this era than in the preceding one because there was more leisure for the enjoyment of life and the rigors of the frontier were more remote. Those of us who are interested in the broader aspects of colonial folkways can do no better than to consult U. S. Senate Document No. 53 (74th Congress, 1st Session) published in Washington, D. C. and entitled, "The Colony of Connecticut." This pamphlet contains not only a brief outline of colonial home-life but a comprehensive list of books about the period. Our task here, however, is to describe some of these folkways in relation to the development of our own community—its architecture, roads, industries, men and manners.

The most obvious reminder of the historic colonial past that the casual observer notes today is the quaint old home-stead set back underneath a towering sycamore or elm or reposing gracefully behind a row of gigantic maple trees. Just as soon as sawmills were established the preceding early log cabin of the first settlers with its puncheon floor, great fireplace, mud-chinked walls, and thatched roof was discarded for a more pretentious home built of hewn timbers, sheathed with clapboards and shingled with wood. These latter homes are the relics of the past which we guard so jealously today. We are indeed fortunate in our little community that at least a few of these lovely old farmhouses have come down as examples of the careful craftsmanship of our forebears. On page 77 may be seen pictures of four of these early types. In general appearance they resemble one another but in their detail they show important differences to the student of early houses. The earliest type, not now extant in Simsbury,

we find represented by the famous Whitman (now Farnham) house in Farmington, with its long sloping roof at the rear, the overhang of the second story and the small casement windows with leaded, diamond-shaped panes of glass. The influence in this architecture is clearly traced to the English medieval style of wooden house. Proceeding from this, our local craftsmen built a succession of farmhouses having the sloping rear roof or "saltbox" feature. Examples of this style in our town today are the Bigelow house in Weatogue and the old Capt. James Cornish place in East Weatogue. The E. M. Brown residence in Meadow Plain was originally a "saltbox" but was changed at a later date. It now contains on the interior very lovely, old, pine panelling. The doorway is typical. These three houses were built between 1720 and 1730. The overhang feature referred to in the Farmington house was carried over into such larger farmhouses as the Miss Mary Eno residence in East Weatogue and the so-called Tuller house (probably built by Joseph Mills) erected in the same general period and now standing near the railroad crossing at Meadow Plain. Probably the oldest local home having in the main its original appearance is the smaller story-and-a-half or cottage type, called the Woodbridge house, now occupied by Mrs. Ellwood Hendrick in Simsbury. Built by the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge in 1720 it has a gambrel roof and in consequence is low-ceilinged. It lacks any interior decoration, and the chimney and foundations contain huge sandstone blocks quarried on the premises.

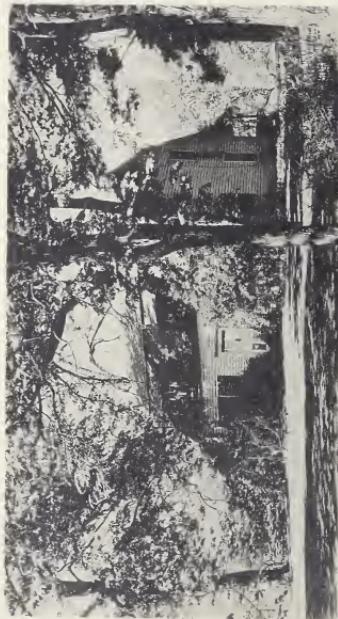
A later, local, colonial variety is the full, two-story, central-chimney type well represented throughout the town and typified by such houses as the Chauncey H. Eno house in Hoskins Station, and the Capt. Elisha Phelps House on Hopmeadow Street. Built in the period from 1750 to 1800, these homes are larger and contain more elaborate ornamentation on the exterior, particularly in the cornices and doorways. On the inside there is elaborate panelling and the decorative note



THE DEACON WM. WILLCOCKSON HOUSE 1723



THE ARIEL ENSIGN HOUSE 1812



REV. TIMOTHY WOODBRIDGE HOUSE 1720



THE CAPTAIN ELISHA PHELPS HOUSE 1771

FOUR REPRESENTATIVE TYPES OF COLONIAL RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE IN SIMSBURY.

is carried out in the corner cupboards and the mouldings around the framing timbers. In connection with the Chauncey H. Eno house in Hoskins Station the interesting story is told that the builder, one Richard Case, wishing to do an excellent job, brought over ornamental furnishings and other decorative materials which put him to such expense that he went bankrupt. This house was erected in 1756. Still later, and carrying over into the early nineteenth century, we find the brick house, a good example of which is the George C. Eno homestead in Hopmeadow Street. Others may be seen in West Simsbury. At one time instead of brick, the local traprock was used, giving an attractive indigenous touch.

In looking for old houses throughout our countryside the amateur should be cautious not to jump to conclusions about the age of the building by its present appearance. Later generations thought nothing of raising roofs, putting on ugly porches, substituting modern windows with large panes of glass, concealing the old fireplaces and plastering over beautiful panelling. The structural features of hewn timbers, wide or narrow clapboarding, mud-chinked chimneys with wooden brace-beams inserted, and other evidences, give the necessary clues as to when the house was built. The residence of Mr. John S. Ellsworth in East Weatogue is a case in point: The enormous chimney has the bake-oven of the kitchen fireplace inserted at the back of the fireplace rather than at the side as was later customary. This is evidence that the chimney probably antedated the present house which encloses it. The present structure is a two-story home whereas the original building built about 1790 was known to be a story-and-a-half type with a gambrel roof. When the present owner bought it, all the fireplaces had been sealed up and plastered over and an enormous pine panel over the huge fireplace mutilated by the insertion of a stove pipe. The house as it stood twenty-five years ago offered no clue to the casual passerby that it was of great antiquity in part and was once quite different in design.

Space does not permit a fuller description of the interiors of these lovely old homes of our ancestors and the manner in which the routine of daily life went on within their protecting walls. To get a picture of that day and age we can best repair to our local Historical Society and see the beautiful examples of tables and chairs and rope bedsteads with the exquisite home made linens and coverlets; the fire utensils such as the old, wrought-iron cranes and andirons, fire tongs, and warming pans; the kitchen utensils such as the picturesque long-handled skillets, the bake kettles, and the big iron pot for boiling water, to say nothing of buttermaking dashers and churns, candlesticks, baskets, and mortars and pestles; old chests and cupboards; rag carpets and hooked rugs; and the all-important spinning wheel. The modern housewife with her new electric range, her sewing machine, the infinite variety of canned goods, and a multitude of mechanical gadgets for doing the thousand and one tasks about the home would shudder, if not rebel, at the thought of keeping house and preparing the food for meals in the manner of the colonial housewife. There was the soaking and grinding of Indian corn, the churning of butter and the making of cheese, the smoking of meats, the drying of fruits and vegetables for winter use, the preserving of fruits and berries and the pickling of meats and vegetables, to say nothing of spinning flax and hemp and the making of clothes, quilts, and rugs. Two other all-important tasks, the making of candles and soap, though arduous, instilled a sense of responsibility not too common in the present day.

In erecting a house two events were always celebrated, the raising of the framework and the occupancy of the completed house. The first was called a "raisin'" and was evolved as a social custom through sheer necessity. The huge oak beams of the house were so heavy that they had to be framed on the ground and at a predetermined day all the neighbors assembled to lend a hand at hoisting the frame upright into position. This was timed to take place by early afternoon and left the

balance of the day for merrymaking. The owner of the house, of course, furnished cider and rum and the housewife provided doughnuts and other victuals. No wonder everyone came from miles around to help work and to enjoy the companionship of many distant friends. This custom of raising a frame continued down to present memory. In fact it was only forty-odd years ago that a Mr. Stocking of Bushy Hill built a large barn having the first "balloon" frame in this part of the country. All the old farmers showed up to see the "new-fangled" affair, which did not require framing on the ground. In consequence there was no "raisin'" and they returned sadly home "allowing as how the idea was a crazy one and the barn would blow over in the first good wind." It is still standing, however, in spite of their dire predictions.

The "housewarming", then as now, was the occasion for much festivity and when the folks all came to call on the occupants of the new home, bearing food and other presents, the evening was spent in merriment and visiting.

The chief crops raised by the early settlers were Indian corn, rye, wheat, and such vegetables as the squash and pumpkin, potatoes, beans, turnips, and parsnips. Tobacco cultivation was soon learned from the Indians. As soon as any considerable areas were planted it became necessary to fence them off to protect the growing crops from grazing animals. For the purpose of saving labor and expense, a system of common fencing was adopted wherein the fields of a large number of planters were enclosed by a single fence and the upkeep of such a fence was prorated among the different individuals in accordance with the size of their estates. Laws were passed regulating this system of fencing and the Selectmen of each town were held responsible for their management. In Simsbury the location of the settlements on both sides of a long dividing river made the system of common fields peculiar. With the river as one fence, the adjoining meadow lands were enclosed on the other side by a fence stretching for miles. In

1685 in a record of a town meeting the following vote is found: "It is voted that all the fields from Farmington bounds to the lower end of Timothy Phelps bounds, on that said field at the Falls on the east side the river; and so, from said Falls to Farmington bounds, all the fields on the west side shall lie in one common and entire field; so that the fence on each side the river shall run from Farmington bounds to the Falls, lower side of Widow Griffins . . ." Men were appointed to act as "fence viewers" who inspected the common fence and warned each farmer to mend his particular stretch. This was no inconsiderable undertaking and there was the usual grumbling or outright refusal to comply, on the part of the farmers, which made the task doubly difficult and often gave rise to court actions and penalties. In Simsbury the cultivated fields were enclosed and hogs and cattle allowed to roam at will outside the fence. Difficulty was encountered with Farmington over this matter because Farmington refused to fence its cultivated fields and when the Simsbury hogs and cattle strayed onto them the Farmington farmers would take possession of the animals. The General Court finally made them fence their fields thus eliminating the controversy.

As long as human nature remains as it does with one man scrupulously careful and his neighbor otherwise, one man hard-working, the next lazy, it can be expected that communal enterprises will soon fail to function. The common fence is a case in point. For a time it was well maintained but eventually certain individuals did less than their fair share of its upkeep and the rest of the inhabitants refused to be victimized by this minority. In the spring of 1688 a group of Weatogue men whose lands lay side by side entered into a mutual agreement with themselves to fence and maintain their own fields. By 1703 the Hop Meadow settlers revolted and set up their own fence, which extended from Hop Brook north to the "Dugway," and easterly of Hopmeadow Street in the rear of the homelots. At the same time the homelots were to be

enclosed by separate fences. The old New England philosophy that "good fences make good neighbors" was born at this time, and eventually the whole system of group fencing disintegrated and farms were individually fenced as they are today.

There are few, if any, prints in existence showing the appearance of the "common fence." We can presume, however, that the earliest fences were probably made of uprooted stumps, trimmed somewhat and laid alongside each other possibly being woven together with brush. Later came "worm" or "snake" fences built of rails laid in a zigzag line about the field. Others were combinations of posts and rails which, though not so easy to build, had the advantage of using both less timber and less ground. The combination of rails with a stone wall made the most effective enclosure. A specification for a Simsbury common fence is found in the town records: "At a town metting of ye Inhabitants of Simsbury Desembr 17, 1684 it was voted by ye Inhabitants of sd town that ye Fences about all corn fields within the Township of Simsbury Shal be Fenced with a Suficient Five Rail Fence of Four Foott high and three inches, or other good sufficient fience equivalent to a good five raidl Fince . . ." When such a fence was well maintained it proved a most effective barrier—at least the farmers thought so in 1688, when it was "Voted and agreed by ye Inhabitants of Simsbury that al hogges shall goe this year without yokes and wringes."

We have seen how the early settlers allowed their cattle and hogs to roam at will outside their fences. This was far from satisfactory because bears and wolves were numerous and could prey at will on the unprotected domestic animals. At one time the town gave a large bounty for the destruction of wolves, and so-called "wolf pits" were numerous about the town. These were probably places where the carcasses of wolves brought in for claiming the bounty were thrown or buried. Tradition assigns such a "wolf-pit" to the area between the present Congregational Church and the old Town Hall.

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Frequent mention is made of the "wolf pits" in Weatogue and the "Wolf Pit Brook" derived its name from them.

It is hard for us to conceive of bears as roaming our countryside but in 1700 Joseph Phelps was attacked by a wounded bear which, in the encounter, so lacerated his right hand as to deprive him of its use thereafter.

Deer were so numerous as to be cheaper in price than beef, pork, or mutton. Parks were constructed for their confinement. One of these parks was in the area now occupied by the estate of the late Antoinette Eno Wood and stretching west along the hill in the rear of Senator McLean's residence. As late as 1768 Mr. Thomas Case had a deer park in Weatogue in the general area south of where Mr. George Conner now lives.

Besides their crops and domestic animals used for food, the early settlers attached great importance to their fisheries. So plentiful were shad and salmon that buyers of shad were required to take a pro rata proportion of the salmon in their purchases. The General Court endeavored to protect the fishing industry by laws regulating dams and other obstructions and preventing the Windsor people at the mouth of the Farmington River from monopolizing all the fish by netting or seining them. The encroachment of industry, which demanded water-power sites and built dams, finally ruined the fishing and by 1750 the salmon began to be scarce and by 1800 shad were no longer taken within the town. The name Salmon Brook is now unfortunately a misnomer although it is still to be hoped that measures will be generally adopted before long to eliminate unsanitary stream pollution and permit the introduction of salmon again within our brooks and rivers.

Sheep in the early days were a scrawny, mongrel, rat-tailed lot. About 1801, through the influence and example of Col. David Humphreys of Connecticut, merino sheep were imported. Where the usual colonial sheep yielded three to four pounds of fleece, a good merino yielded eight to nine pounds.

A great boom in sheep-raising then ensued. This is curiously reflected in old town tax lists recently brought to light. Before 1801 sheep were only infrequently listed along with other animals such as horses and cattle. In tax lists dated 1801 and after, we find sheep not only listed but seventy-five cents a head could be deducted from the valuation of these sheep for tax purposes. In other words there was a rebate to encourage the sheep-raising industry and we find in 1801 a total in the east and west districts of Simsbury of 3,490 sheep which jumped in 1802 to a total of 4,289. The east district alone in 1801 had 1,825 sheep and ten years later in 1811, including Wintonbury, had 2,567. Sheep-raising is no longer an industry of note in Simsbury. In its stead dairy farming has sprung up to supply the demand for milk in the large nearby centers of population. Today Simsbury boasts some of the finest herds of Jersey and Guernsey cows in America.

A feature of colonial life deserving of particular mention is the progress in the development of communication and transportation. The very first ways of getting through the country were to walk or ride on horseback over the well-defined Indian paths or trails. These trails through centuries of use had found the easiest way from valley to valley avoiding the crossing of too many streams, usually keeping on the higher and drier ground, and winding through notches in the mountains rather than directly over the high cliffs. Usually they led by ponds or to well-known springs. Without doubt many of our present roads and routes of travel follow closely these old but long-forgotten Indian trails. "Griffin's Path," referred to in old records, is very probably an old Indian path used by John Griffin to get from Windsor to his tar kilns near North Bloomfield.

The early settlers in many cases widened these Indian trails until they became cart paths joining up their farms and habitations but it was not long, however, before new roads had to be laid out. The various land distribution committees

usually left land of a certain width ungranted for purposes of a highway. Such was done when the Hop Meadow house lots were laid in 1667. The road from the present Town Farm to Bissell's Brook in Hoskins Station is one of the earliest of the Simsbury Highways, as is also the one from East Weatogue to Terry's Plain. Both of these were laid out in 1666. In 1668 the "Pent Road" was laid out to the river from in front of the present High School. In 1669 the "Dugway" was ordered: "Windsor, October 11, '69. whereas, forasmuch as some of the Inhabitants of Massaco complain for want of a cart way to passe from Low^r meadows up to the meadow called hopp meadow, no way yet being laid out; we therefore, . . . appoynyt y^t ye way to be alowed to go through John Owen's Meadow . . . the way is to begin at the most suitablest place about ye lower end of ye Meadow, and so to pass out where he hath already made a cart (path) . . ." Before the old canal, the railroad, and the present highway were constructed, the hill where Westminster School now stands, known as Williams Hill, sloped abruptly to the west bank of the river. In order to get from Westover's Plain to Hop Meadow a circuitous journey had to be made westerly of Williams Hill. By digging away the side hill a short cut was made into the present Aaron Eno meadow land and this became known as the "Dugway." Very probably the original road followed along about where the railroad is today and worked its way up to the present highway in the vicinity of the present residence of Mrs. Aaron Eno. In the order of the committee quoted above reference is made to the Lower Meadows. To all settlers coming from Windsor and entering our valley through the notch at Tariffville, Hop Meadow was upstream and most of the early records refer to lands in relation to the direction of the flow of the Farmington River rather than in relation to the compass direction.

In 1688 a "country way" was laid out across the mountain at Terry's Plain and to Hartford from Weatogue.

Before the building of dams on the Farmington River at New Hartford, Collinsville and Tariffville the river current was much more rapid and hence little used for transportation. It was an effective barrier to communication, moreover, and we find it to be fordable in early times only at the Falls. In 1673 a ferry was established across the river at the mouth of Hop Brook and therefore roads were authorized to lead to it on the west and from it on the east towards Terry's Plain and East Weatogue. What these early ferries were like it is hard to say but very probably they were hollowed-out tree trunks or "canoes", or possibly a type of raft. In any event they were not satisfactory and there was a great demand for bridges. In 1734 a few Weatogue men built a toll bridge there—the first bridge in Simsbury. Persons going to and from the public worship of God on the Sabbath or other days and scholars going to or from school did not have to pay toll. About 1750, tradition states that bridges were built by private subscription across to Terry's Plain from the Pent Road as well as across the river at the elbow near the mouth of Mile Swamp Brook (now Lucy's Brook) but these could not have lasted very long because a ferry was established at the Pent Road in 1756 and John Marvin was named ferryman for ten years by the General Assembly. The ferry rates were:

"For man horse and load, one penny
Single man, or single horse, one half-penny
Neat cattle: per head, one half-penny
Sheep and swine, per head, one farthing."

Obviously this ferry was a primitive affair since there was no charge indicated for carts or wagons. Besides the bridge at Weatogue, by 1800 there were bridges at Terry's Plain, Hop Meadow, and at Suffrage (now Collinsville). This last

bridge, in a very remote section of Ancient Simsbury, being used chiefly by travellers to Litchfield and the west and very little by Simsbury people, caused considerable agitation on the part of the taxpayers and was seldom kept in good repair. The General Assembly finally had to order the bridge fixed up at town expense but it was washed away in 1772 and a new one built only after another command of the Assembly. The bridge at Hop Meadow from 1788 to 1801 stood east of the present residence of Mrs. Aaron Eno and was built by Capt. Joseph Humphrey. A bridge at Hop Meadow east of the Congregational Church, possibly the second at this site, was built in 1820 by private subscription and rebuilt by the town in 1833. Later developments in communication comprising the building of the Farmington Canal, which ran from New Haven to Northampton, and the Connecticut Western Railroad will be described in a later chapter.

Mention might be made at this point of the stage and mail routes. The first mail route was from Hartford west to Litchfield, which occasioned the establishment of the first post office at Suffrage in 1798. In 1802 this was removed to Weatogue. In 1806 a mail route was established from Hartford to Granville, Mass., via Simsbury, and the Weatogue post office was moved to Simsbury where it was kept by Col. Noah A. Phelps in his home opposite the present Methodist Church. For twenty years or more the mail carrier was Enos Boies. Originally he traveled on horseback but later he used a sulky. He finally acquired a two-horse covered vehicle and carried passengers on his trips. About 1825 a mail route was established between New Haven and Northampton with a four-horse stage daily until this was superseded by the railroad. Eventually post offices were located at Tariffville, Farms Village, Simsbury and Weatogue.

The little settlements that were joined up by the roads and ferries and bridges that we have just described were not solely a collection of farmhouses. Our forefathers were indi-

vidualists, to be sure, but they were also public souls and enjoyed meeting in social gatherings whether it was for religious, or political reasons or merely for the sake of good fellowship. It is rather notable that the first "ordinary" or tavern was established in Simsbury in 1675, a matter of eight years before the first church was actually erected. When Samuel Pinney opened this first tavern, which was probably no more than his own home outfitted with spare rooms for lodgers and with a basement "tap room" where meals and drinks were served, he started a long line of distinguished tavern keepers whose names are so familiar in Simsbury history: Pinney, Wolcott, Phelps, Pettibone, Eno and others. The tavern keeper was an important man. He had many a contact with the outside world, occasioned not only by the fact that travellers came and brought news of the doings elsewhere but also because he had to deal with merchants and traders for his wines and liquors and foodstuffs. He also, like the small town barber or country doctor, knew everybody and their affairs. On Sabbaths and training days he was obligated by law to see to it that the inhabitants could buy from him whatever they needed in food and drink and quite naturally his place was the focal point for social gatherings and the exchange of gossip when the preaching or the training was over. What wonderful tales the walls of some of our old houses, which at some time in the past served to lodge and feed the wayfarer, could tell. A tradition, handed down for generations in the Eno family, relates that when Burgoyne's army, which was made up in part of mercenary soldiers called Hessians, was defeated by the Americans at Saratoga the captured army was moved in small detachments under guard to Boston. One band of these war prisoners marched through Simsbury and paused for their noonday rest and meal at the Capt. Jonathan Eno Tavern, now owned by Chauncey H. Eno in Hoskins Station. Although only a small child, Elizabeth, the daughter of Jonathan Eno, was pressed into

service to wait on the Hessian officers. During the meal two of the officers quarreled violently and to the unforgettable amazement and horror of the impressionable young child one of them seized the big carving knife and hurled it full at the head of the other. Just missing him, it hit the panelling over the fire place, quivered there for a moment, then fell to the floor taking with it a good-sized splinter of wood. To her dying day, whenever Mrs. Alexander Phelps, the little Elizabeth Eno of the story, came back to the old house, she would tell the story and walk over to the fireplace to point out with her finger the large dent which remained in the panel. Unfortunately the panel is no longer in place since the chimney was remodelled in 1896 but it is still being carefully preserved.

Apropos of this incident a note copied from papers belonging to Owen Pettibone, who would have heard his parents tell about it, helps confirm the historic background for the tradition: "March through Simsbury. Burgoyne's army went by Hosford tavern at Canton past Levi Case's house where Heman Humphrey used to live. They camped at the foot of the mountain went to the house of Tim Alderman where Henry Ensign lived at one time in Bushy Hill on past the Bushy Hill School house, past Mr. Stockings house then down to Weatogue by Miss Antoinette Phelps house then on to Hopmeadow."

Another tavern of particular interest in Simsbury which is illustrated on page 77 is the Capt. Elisha Phelps house opposite the present Methodist Church. Built in 1771 it was bought by General Noah Phelps of Revolutionary fame and later conveyed to his son Col. Noah Amherst Phelps, the first Simsbury postmaster. After the War of 1812 it was used as a tavern and during the period when the Farmington Canal was in operation it was called the "Canal Hotel." For many years the ballroom in the second story, with its arched ceiling running across the south end of the house was

the largest place of assembly in the town outside of the meeting house. Squire Phelps held court in it and in 1792 the village lodge of Free and Accepted Masons was organized there.

Besides the tavern the other great gathering place was the meeting house. This building loomed so large and important in the minds of the settlers that it was usually the first public building projected in the new settlements, as it was in the case of Simsbury, although the tavern was actually opened first. Used both for public meetings and religious worship, it was plain in design and not until around 1800 did it commence to conform to the churchly style of London architecture. As we have seen before, the location of the edifice was most important, not only as to its convenience but also because wherever the meeting house was erected the chances were greatly enhanced that that part of the town would grow and prosper as the center of the town life. The center of present day Simsbury still clusters around the original meeting house site and it is fitting that this important spot is now beautifully marked, within the cemetery gate, by a carved slate plaque and native sandstone base, a gift of the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

We have little idea today of the rigors of a colonial Sabbath—the interminable sermons of the preacher, who discoursed ponderously on sin and infant damnation; the bitter chill of winter, when the only heat came from footwarmers or from an inner glow induced by having partaken of the indispensable cheer from the table of a nearby hospitable home or tavern during the intermission; the extreme heat of summer, when no breeze stirred and all the world seemed dead, save for the monotonous droning of the sermonizing; the hard benches and pews; the dread surrounding walls, unrelieved by decoration or ornamentation of any sort; and the total absence of artificial illumination for dark days or for night meetings, when singing schools were held. Whatever

may be thought of the theology of the sermons and the discomforts of the meeting houses it cannot be questioned but that they were schools for the people. The minister was invariably the most learned man among them, having a tolerable education in the classics and the ancient tongues, as well as knowing much of geometry, algebra, physics, and occasionally even medicine. His library was probably the only one in the community. Thus every meeting house was of necessity a center of culture, a school of good manners, a training place for decorum, and a powerful influence for the enforcement of order in the land as well as a spiritual stimulus.

Our town records are full of the important details of choosing and "settling" a minister. The arrangements were usually made between the minister and the inhabitants of the town acting through a committee and everything was drawn up in contract form. The usual contract started off with a promise of obedience and cooperation on the part of the people. Then came the stating of the salary, which, in all early contracts, was chiefly in provision pay such as wheat, corn, and pork. The parishioners usually agreed to provide firewood, to grant the use of the parsonage lands, to give the life use of the parsonage and the homelot on which it stood—all conditioned upon his remaining in the ministry and not deserting it unless forced to by the Simsbury people. The Reverend Timothy Woodbridge, who was settled in 1712, received ninety pounds in land to be his and his assigns' and heirs' forever, provided he did not desert the town by his own volition; and there was a safeguarding clause that, in case of a dispute over the cause of his leaving, men mutually chosen by the minister and the town would arbitrate the matter. He also received a preliminary bonus of fifty-five pounds in provision pay for the first two years and his salary was arranged at seventy pounds annually for the first four years, including firewood. Thereafter his salary was to be one hundred pounds annually in provision pay, "he finding himself



PARSON AND MRS. SAMUEL STEBBINS.
From portraits in the possession of Mrs. George P. McLean.
Mr. Stebbins was minister of the First Church of Christ in Simsbury from 1777 to 1806.

firewood." As time went on a greater proportion of the minister's pay was in money and at the close of the Revolution the annual salary of Mr. Stebbins amounted to three hundred and thirty-three federal dollars. In 1809 the Rev. Allen McLean received an annual salary of four hundred and fifty dollars.

The Reverend Samuel Stebbins was probably as good an example of the typical New England preacher of his day as one could hope to find. Educated at Dartmouth College where he graduated in 1775 he was intelligent, shrewd, witty and sarcastic—traits which manifested themselves in his daily life and in the pulpit throughout his long ministry, as one can well imagine from studying his portrait which is reproduced on the opposite page. Many stories have come down to us about Parson Stebbins, which are so human and at the same time amusing that we can do no better than relate them in the words of Dr. Barber's "History":

Mr. Stebbins was an extensive farmer. He owned more than 360 acres of land, of which a large proportion was adapted to the raising of grain. Rye was his specialty, of which he raised annually several hundred bushels, which he sold profitably at the distillery of his brother clergyman, and friend, Dr. Strong of Hartford. He necessarily employed a large number of men, especially in harvest-time. His knowledge of human nature enabled him to obtain from these men a much more than ordinary amount of labor.

Having marshalled his men in the harvest field, he would appoint one whom he knew to be ambitious as foreman, to lead the field. The sickle was the only harvesting implement. Grain cradles and reapers were not known. One after another, the men fell into their work. "Now, men," quoth Mr. Stebbins, leaning on the fence, "I want to see how quick you can go through." Fresh and vigorous they went across the field with a rush, each striving "to cut out" the man immediately before him. Having reaped through, they walked back to the starting point, as was the wont of reapers. "Surprising," said Mr. Stebbins, "I don't think you can go through again so quick—watch." Again they set in, and rush across the field and return in less time than before. "Amazing!

I didn't think it possible to reap across the field in so short a time. I'm sure you can't do it again—but if you think you can, take a drink of rum, and you may try once more—and I'll hold the watch." They go through with greater speed than before. "Ah, I had a minute less time than before." And thus, under the influence of the Dominie's rum and flattery, a vast amount of work was accomplished.

Politically, Mr. Stebbins was a strong Federalist. It was in the times of Adams and Jefferson when party spirit ran high, higher than at any period of our history. After the election of the latter, it was observed that one of his prominent parishioners absented himself from meeting. As a good shepherd the faithful pastor looked up the missing one of his flock. Upon enquiring as to the cause of his absence, he found that it was because the Pastor failed to pray for the new President, as had been his wont, under the administration of Washington and Adams. "Ah, I'll not stand in the way of your worshipping in the Sanctuary. I will pray for the President next Sabbath." The Sabbath came and so did the parishioner. The services proceeded as usual. In the course of his prayer, the Pastor thus addressed the throne of Grace: "We pray, O Lord, for our rulers: may they be good men, ruling in the fear of God. Especially we pray for the President of these United States; give him Wisdom—give him understanding—for God knows, he needs them."

To show his knowledge of men, and his manner of governing them, the following is introduced. Mr. Stebbins was appointed by vote of the Society to superintend the plastering and finishing the meeting house. Capt. Jacob Pettibone was employed to do the mason work, and he loved liquor. While at work one day, a neighbor told Capt. Pettibone that Mr. Stebbins had said he was slighting his work and not doing it according to contract. "Did he say that?" "Yes, I heard him say it." Instantly Capt. Pettibone threw down his trowel, stripped off his apron and indignantly marched to Mr. Stebbins' house, and knocked at the door. Mr. Stebbins bade him walk in. He did so. "Mr. Stebbins," said he "you are a _____ rascal. You say I am slighting my work. You say I am not doing it according to contract; and I tell you to your face, you are a _____ rascal." Mr. Stebbins arose calmly and opened a door. "Madam Stebbins," he called. "Madam Stebbins, will you come here a moment?" She appeared at the door. "Madam Stebbins, here's Capt. Pettibone come to tell me my faults: and he comes in a neighborly way

and in a Christian spirit; he don't go and talk behind my back, but as a Christian should, he comes right to me, and makes his complaint. I want to treat him well, and show a proper spirit, and now I wish you would make a good mug of sling,—and pretty strong." Capt. Pettibone was invited to be seated. In anticipation of the soothing beverage, his resentment began to be appeased, his taste for which overcame all other feelings; the "sling" was brought in, and Capt. Pettibone was invited to drink. He was not slow to accept the invitation. Under the influence of the spirit, his anger disappeared; mutual apologies were made, and they parted good friends.

On one occasion Mr. Stebbins had arranged an exchange of pulpits with Rev. Mr. Gaylord of West Hartland. There was no travel then on the Sabbath. On Saturday, therefore, previous to the day of exchange, Rev. and Madam Stebbins set off in their chaise for West Hartland. They must needs go through Barkhamsted, then a rough and broken wilderness. On arriving there, Madam Stebbins was very sick, and unable to proceed further on the journey. But the engagement must be fulfilled, and Mr. Stebbins proceeded alone. On Monday he returned and found Madam S. greatly improved in health, and his anxiety was removed. He had been greatly alarmed. In speaking of its afterwards, he said, "I was afraid that Madam Stebbins would die; but I felt that if it was God's will that Madam Stebbins should die, I could be perfectly reconciled to the Will of God; but the idea that Madam Stebbins should go to Heaven by way of Barkhamsted,—that was too humiliating—too humiliating."

Colonial social life was not all serious religion or politics but there were births and marriages and deaths to be celebrated or observed, as the case might be, all of them serving to relieve the tedium of the hard labor of the settlers and providing an excuse for social gatherings. Many changes have occurred in the manner of conducting funerals. Instead of the modern automobile hearse the coffin containing the deceased was carried on the shoulders of the bearers the entire distance to the grave followed by the mourners and friends. Alternate bearers stepped forward to relieve the others whenever they became fatigued. During the day or so previous to the funeral, watchers were secured to sit up with the corpse. Liquors and

provisions were provided for the watchers and the clergyman in attendance. In case of sudden death, where the cause was not known, a jury was called who usually gave the verdict, "died by the visitation of God." On occasions when death ensued from an accident a marker was frequently placed where the accident occurred to commemorate the event. Several of these can be found in Simsbury. One stands on the East Weatogue-Terry's Plain road northerly of Lucy's Brook, having been erected in 1782 to indicate the place where one David Russell was killed by falling from his ox cart and being run over by a wheel. Another stands in the woods belonging to The Ensign-Bickford Company southerly of the road running from Weatogue to West Simsbury and three tenths of a mile east of the Simsbury-Unionville intersecting highway. This stone reads, "Jared S. Bradley was instantly killed in this place by the fall of a tree, Feb 3, 1841. Aged 15."

Marriages were legal in the early days only if the intentions of the two persons were publicly announced at some church service or else set up in writing on a post or door of the meeting house at least eight days beforehand. Usually the minister made the announcement but in 1786 it was voted to have the deacons perform this act. In 1854 the publishing of intentions to marry was done away with and the present system of obtaining a license from the town clerk instituted. Weddings were then, as now, occasions for fun and frolic. There occurred such incidents as "stealing the bride" or the ancient custom of the charivari or "chivaree." The latter was a custom whereby the neighbors came and beat with pots and pans outside the home of the bride and groom on their wedding night until they were let in and offered the hospitality of the home. The custom of "stealing the bride" was engaged in mostly by those not invited to the wedding. It is a pleasant tale of old-time Simsbury well worthy of retelling as related by Dr. Stiles in his "History of Ancient Windsor":

When a young couple were to be married, those of their acquaintance who were *not* invited to the wedding would sometimes combine, go stealthily to the house where the ceremony was being celebrated, and watching for a favorable opportunity, rush in, seize the bride, carry her out, and placing her upon a horse, behind one of the party, gallop off with her to some neighboring tavern, where music, supper, etc., had been bespoken. If the capture and flight were successful, and the captors succeeded in reaching their rendezvous at the tavern, without being overtaken by the wedding party, the night was spent in dancing and feasting, *at the expense of the bridegroom*. Mr. Elisha Griswold, of Simsbury, used in his later years, to relate with much glee the particulars of one of these bride-stealings, in which he was a principal actor.

It seems that a certain couple were to be married in Simsbury, and Mr. Griswold, with others of their acquaintance, who had not been honored with an invitation, resolved upon retaliation by stealing the bride. Accordingly, on the evening of the wedding, having first ordered a nice supper, and engaged the music, etc., very privately, at a tavern at Turkey Hills, himself with two or three others went into the neighborhood of the bride's residence. Here they reconnoitered; but as the party was large, and the rooms crowded, they were obliged to watch for some time before the favorable opportunity presented itself. At length, however, the evening being warm and beautiful, the company gradually withdrew from the house and dispersed through the grounds and garden, which surrounded it. Through a window, they could see the bride, distinguished by her bridal dress, almost alone in the parlor. Now was their chance. One or two of the surprise party quietly entered the dwelling by a back door. To seize the bride and bear her out to where their confederates were holding the horses, and to place her behind one of the party on horseback, was but the work of an instant. In another moment they were speeding over the road to Turkey Hills, with a swiftness which almost defied pursuit. But to their surprise the whole wedding party seemed also to have sprung to their saddles and were almost immediately in pursuit, as their loud voices and the clear ring of their horses' hoofs too plainly told. The race was exciting, their laboring horses seemed not to gain one inch on their pursuers; but at last they reached the tavern, dismounted, carried their fair prize into

the hall, and had just time to arrange the dance when the wedding party arrived.

The music struck up—the dance began—but the astonishment of the gallant captors can scarcely be imagined when they discovered for the first time that the supposed bride *wore men's boots*, and that her steps and movements were altogether too masculine and antic to comport with the dress and known refinement of the real bride. It then flashed upon them that they had been awfully *sold*; the whole wedding party now came rushing into the hall, laughing and exulting with the greatest glee.

It seems that the friends of the bride had suspected or learned of the attempt to be made upon her, and had purposely dressed up one of the young men, and left him exposed in the parlor, having their horses also in instant readiness for pursuit. The hilarious scene that followed the denouement was amusing. The whole thing was taken in perfect good humor, the dancing and supper were very highly enjoyed, and the company broke up and dispersed at a very late hour—*the kidnappers paying all expenses*. And for years after they had to bear the laughs and jokes of the neighborhood, for having the “lobby turned upon them.”

As far as education was concerned the General Court took early action and in 1650 passed a law which was the cornerstone of our common school system. Whenever a township had more than fifty householders it had to supply a schoolmaster at the cost of the parents of the pupils or the inhabitants generally. Subsequent acts required schools to be kept at least three months in the year and later this was lengthened to six months. Before Simsbury established a school system the responsibility for seeing to it that children received some kind of home education was placed upon the Selectmen. The chief items of study in the earliest days were reading the English tongue, a knowledge of the “Capitall Lawes” and the catechism on the principles of religion. By 1701 Simsbury had grown large enough so that by law the town had to provide a school teacher. The school committee hired John Slater, Sr. “to teach such of sd towne children, as are sent to read writ and to cypher: or to say the rules of arithmatick.” The

first school was kept three months in Weatogue and three months presumably at Westover's Plain. By 1704 four "School dames" were hired, one for Weatogue west, one for Weatogue east, one for Salmon Brook, and one for Terry's Plain and Scotland combined, and a schoolmaster was retained to whom parents from other parts of the town could send their children.

It is of especial interest that upon the discovery of copper in Simsbury the agreement between the town and those who operated the mines was that six and two-thirds per cent of the refined copper was to be taken to maintain a schoolmaster in Simsbury and three and one-third per cent for the use of Yale College.

Following the formation of the Ecclesiastical Society educational matters were in its hands until the General Assembly in 1795 established school societies. The first school house in Hop Meadow was located in the northwest corner of the house lot now occupied by Mr. Henry E. Ellsworth. It was a small one-story building. The next was built in 1800 at the southeast corner of the present cemetery. The complete records of the votes authorizing the construction of this second school house and the report of the building committee have just recently been presented to the Simsbury Historical Society by Mrs. James K. Crofut. An analysis of the figures contained in the committee's report has been made by Mr. C. A. Buerman and it appears that the total cost of the structure, completely outfitted with a fireplace, benches and tables, a belfry and bell, came to a little over one hundred and twenty pounds which at the prevailing rate at that time of three and one-third dollars to the pound amounted to four hundred and two dollars.

The first school teacher was William Taylor employed at twelve dollars per month and board.

Teachers always boarded around, apportioning the length of stay at each home according to the number of pupils from

each family, and they were always expected to stay out their term of boarding which often led them to the acquaintance of strange bedfellows, if by chance they found themselves residing with a large family of scant means. The country school was always considered the great training ground for our forefathers and they were well grounded not only in the three "R's" but were taught manners and the basic distinctions between right and wrong so often neglected today in favor of "book learning." Methods of discipline were unnecessarily drastic according to our present-day beliefs and the rod was used frequently.

Advanced schooling was had by resorting to the ministers who usually kept private or "select" schools at their own homes. Parsons Samuel Stebbins and Allen McLean had such schools and helped to fit the young men of the town for a college education, which was a great rarity in those days.

No account of colonial folkways would be complete without reference to the prevalence of liquor-drinking and the resultant temperance movement. Following hard on the heels of the Revolution, intemperance grew and spread as the inevitable reaction to the prostration of war. Apples and grain were abundant and cheap. Cider mills and distilleries were erected everywhere. The cellars of farm houses were filled with hogsheads of cider which were sold to the distilleries at fifty cents a barrel and the resultant cider brandy sold for twenty-five cents a gallon. Liquor-drinking was universal. Dinner without cider was unknown and to draw the cider was a family chore usually put up to one of its junior members. No farmer could reap his harvest or finish his haying without a keg of rum, which was deemed warming in winter and cooling in summer; children were taught that "tansy bitters" was good to preserve or restore health and to stimulate the appetite. When a neighbor called, one of the children must needs run and fetch a cup of cider, and at social visits a "glass of

sling" was the sign of welcome. Minister and congregation partook alike and many an old account book shows that Parson Stebbins had his rum, or that the solemn deliberations of the "School Board" of the time were refreshed by a rum toddy. At the "Ordination Ball" for the Rev. Allen McLean the general hilarity of the occasion was greatly promoted by the flow of liquors, at funerals the deepest expressions of sympathy were intensified by the liberal use of liquor, and weddings without wine were not occasions worth mentioning. Travellers on a journey never failed to stand treat for the stagecoach driver and one another at the bar of the tavern. The militia training was a particularly intemperate process and every officer chosen, from corporal up to captain, had to acknowledge his thanks by treating his men to pailfuls of punch. At sea, "grog" was a regular item of fare. House warmings and "raising bees" were particular occasions for jollity and mirth, and liquor was always freely served and freely imbibed.

Finally the better-thinking people became aroused and began to call public attention to the alarming situation. The first temperance society in Simsbury, and in all probability in the United States, was organized in 1805 and several of the original documents of this society are on display in the Simsbury Historical Society rooms. Here was a very fertile field, because it is said that at one time there were over twenty distilleries for gin and cider brandy within the township, and a tax list for 1812 enumerates twenty "distillers of spirits." One Benjamin Ely, a graduate of Yale, came to town as a teacher, married the daughter of Dudley Pettibone, and settled down as a permanent resident. He organized "The Aquatic Society", which pledged each member to refrain from drinking intoxicating liquors. That he had a hard battle on behalf of temperance is seen in a notice which Mr. Ely put on the school sign post, as he says, "Without having the intended effect":

Distilled Spirits

Every scholar over 12 years of age, who has not drank any spirits today, is requested to give this pleasing information in writing to, B. Ely. Thursday 6th Feb.

N. B. I rejoice greatly in being one of the first to establish an Aquatic Society, and think it one of the most commendable things I ever was engaged or concerned in. It is really honorable; and one proof of this is, that it occasions the sneers and and jeerings of the idle & the dissolute. We expect their shafts, & all the low, vulgar wit of the toping herd. But a conscious rectitude of the propriety of our cause renders us invulnerable, by all the weapons which ingenuity or malice can invent.

The teacher daily laments that all his arguments in favor of an Aquatic Society among his pupils, prove ineffectual. Not one among them all is to be found who wholly refrains from ardent spirits. Were you all my own children, I should not only lament your conduct, but should be ashamed of it. Not a drop of distilled spirits have I drank since the 11th of Jan^y. Here is a good example set before you & not one is found to follow it.

It is greatly to be desired that some of the scholars would form themselves, now, this day, into such a Society and strictly and conscientiously adhere to it. It would be a great saving of money & time & would also contribute to health and reputation.

You all have my good wishes; and if any of you would resolve to be, and really be, worthy, steadfast Aquatics, you shall have by best wishes. B.E.

We have presented an all-too-incomplete résumé of how our forefathers lived and learned and died. The student of sociology can trace many of our present thoughts and actions back to these early times. For that reason every effort should be made to record any old family legends or traditions that will help to give still further insight into our local past and the grand old characters who were our great-grandfathers. Each community should take a sincere interest in its local historical society and see that it becomes the repository not only for the physical and material evidences of the past but also for the folklore and traditions that become lost only too soon in this day of rapid change.

¶ *The Development of Industry and the Unique Contributions of Simsbury to its Progress.*

THE customs and manners of early days, which have been touched upon in the preceding pages, revolved largely around a simple agricultural life wherein what few industries there were could be termed "home and farm" industries. The mother-country sought to enhance her own economic well-being by means of her colonies, which were not encouraged to manufacture their own requirements but rather were stimulated to become chiefly agricultural and to export farm products and any other natural resources they had, thus giving employment to England's shipping and English manufacturers and providing a market for English-made goods among the colonists. This policy had far-reaching consequences in America and its definite effects left its mark right in our own community as we shall presently observe.

In any expanding country, where the growth of population and the pushing back of the frontier means new settlements, new homes, and new farms, the demand for fabricated

materials for houses and barns, for home and farm utensils and for weapons, far outstrips the capacity of the settlers to produce them. This was the case in colonial America, and we find most of the early materials being imported from England just as had been contemplated. But there was another factor at work also. Whatever money or specie the colonists had was soon used up in payment for the goods purchased in Europe, and the balance of trade was invariably against America because her exports, being chiefly lumber, pitch, turpentine, tar, and fish, seldom equalled her imports. Money in consequence was scarce and whatever the farmer needed he had to purchase by exchange or barter. The usual manner of making contract payments was in the so-called "provision pay," which we remember was typically used in paying the minister's salary. It was not until after the Revolution that specie was in general circulation. In this atmosphere of restricted trade it was only natural that the farmer would prefer to make all the things he needed for his household and farm right on the spot, or at least locally, where he could pay for it in the produce of his own farm. Thus necessity became the mother of invention, and we find "Yankee ingenuity" becoming a prime characteristic of the New England colonist. To this day Connecticut holds first place in the nation for the number of patents issued in proportion to its population, and the contributions of the people of Simsbury have been notably unique in the fields of invention and industrial development, a fact which prior historians have not sufficiently emphasized.

A most felicitous description of the nature of home and village industry of the colonial period has been given by Dr. Barber. We shall reproduce it as a background for the later development of specialized labor-saving manufacture:

Every shop and farm house was a manufactory. The blacksmith made the axes, the hoes, the forks, the plowshares, the scythes; all these were made by hand, and all farming utensils. In the house almost all the articles of domestic use were manufactured. Here the itinerant tailor-

ess made up the clothing for the men and boys; and the peripatetic shoemaker, with bench and kit, made up the children's shoes. Here, too, were spun and woven the bed clothing and furniture. Spinning wheels buzzed in every house; skeins of woolen and linen yarn hung on the walls; on the loom seat, now supplanted by the piano, or parlor organ, the matron plied the shuttle and the treadles. The cloth for the family, blankets and sheets, table cloths and towels; bed curtains and window curtains, flannels and carpets, when carpets came in vogue, all were woven there. Grandmothers were seated by the "little wheel", spinning flax; and mothers in the corner carding wool or tow, or hatchelling flax. In the morning the lawn was white with "pieces of linen", spread out to bleach, and the meadow covered with flax to rot. All these were the work of women. They made the bread, the butter, the cheese. There was no bakery then, no creamery. They milked the cows, they cooked over an open fire; they washed and ironed; they scrubbed the floors, and sanded them; they made soap and candles. They raked hay, they pulled flax, they dug potatoes, in their season. When they visited they "carried their work"; when they sat by the fireside to rest, they were knitting or patching the children's clothes, or darning their stockings.

Two typical home manufactures were the making of candles and soap. In making candles the fats most used were deer suet, moose fat, bear grease, or the grease left from the cooking of any meats in the kitchen. This tallow was melted in big pots in which were dipped a number of times a row of candle wicks made of loosely-spun hemp or tow, cotton, or even of milkweed silk. If the candles cooled too fast they were brittle and often cracked, therefore the process of dipping was so slow that a good candlemaker could turn out only two hundred candles a day. Bayberry candles were made from the berries of the bay bush, which were gathered in the late autumn and thrown into a pot of boiling water to extract their fat content. This bay tallow, when hardened, had a dull green color but when refined it became a transparent green. Bayberry candles did not melt or bend easily, burned slowly and well, with no smoke, and gave forth an agreeable odor when extinguished.

The making of soap at home was carried on down to the memory of present generations. Composed of lye, leached from wood ashes, and grease left from cooking and butchering, it was necessary to save carefully these household by-products. The ashes were put into a barrel and water poured in and allowed to trickle out at the base into another container. If the lye was not strong enough, it was poured back over fresh ashes until it would bear up an egg. It took about twenty-four pounds of grease and the lye from six bushels of ashes to produce a barrel of soap. The lye and grease were boiled together in a big iron pot out-of-doors and the waste materials which floated on the top had to be skimmed off. The resultant soap was a clear, rather soft, jelly. Hard soap was made from the tallow of the bayberry and was used chiefly as toilet soap.

The earliest of the specialized labor-saving manufactures were quite naturally the sawmill and gristmill. The early homes were no more than log cabins. Shingles, clapboards and beams were all hand-riven and the furniture little more than stools or benches split from logs. When John Griffin's estate was inventoried in 1681 not a table or chair was listed. For any extensive building of permanent and substantial homes a sawmill became a village necessity. While it was being projected the same water-power site might as well be utilized for a gristmill, and we find this oftentimes combined with it. For ten years after the incorporation of the town Simsbury had no mills, the nearest grinding mill being the old Wareham Corn Mill in Windsor. Therefore in 1680, in accordance with an agreement entered into by the inhabitants with Thomas Barber, John Moses, John Terry and Ephraim Hawart (Howard), these gentlemen erected a gristmill and sawmill on Hop Brook. They agreed to "grinde the corne, well and sufficiently, and to take Toll not exceeding the Statute law of the Commonwealth . . . that whatsoever Boards we do sell . . . we will sell at foure shillings six pence & Hundred . . ." and they further engaged to keep the mills in good repair



GRIST MILL. Established 1680 as Grist Mill
and Sawmill.

BLACKSMITH SHOP. Formerly Thomas Case
Hand-Card Factory. Established about 1813.



FORMER TOWN HALL. Built 1839.

HOP MEADOW DISTRICT SCHOOL. Erected in
1891.

BUILDINGS OF FORMER INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL IMPORTANCE IN SIMSBURY.

and not to deny the town's right to the water-power of the brook if the mills were later abandoned, and then, curiously, agreed "not to transport any oak to any other towne, with out we first obteyne liberty of ye towne." In return the town gave them twenty pounds, the use of Hop Brook, the right to cut timber on town commons, and a miller's lot. They also further obliged "that whatsoever Corne the Towne grinds for ye necessity of their Families, shall be brought to said mils."

From all we can discover the present gristmill on Hop Brook, which is illustrated opposite, is on the original site of this old mill. The character of the huge, hand-hewn beams and other structural features leads the authorities to believe that it is the original mill—at least the low, western wing is thought to be the old sawmill. In any event, it is one of our town's most ancient buildings and we owe a debt of gratitude to all those public-spirited individuals who have kept it a continuously-operating mill for over two hundred and fifty years, when its major usefulness has long since passed. At one time these mills were known as Tuller's Mills but later they passed into the hands of Mr. R. H. Ensign and a jute yarn factory was established there. The Ensign family still owns the property but since the death of Mr. Ensign the gristmill has been operated by the late Woods Chandler. It is now worked by Mr. Henry B. Bunnell. To visit this wonderful relic of another day is very worthwhile and it is to be hoped that the present inhabitants of this community will give it generous support that it may continue in usefulness and be of inspiration to future generations.

Tax lists for the east and west districts of Simsbury in 1802, which do not, of course, include Granby and East Granby, record four "corn mills" and five sawmills as of that date. Apparently, in the century succeeding the building of the first mills, it had become practicable to utilize other water-power sites. Permission was given the Woodbridge family to

build a dam and gristmill on Hop Brook just below the first mills. This was probably on the site of the old Belden distillery depicted on page 133. In 1804 it appears in the tax list as operated by Thomas Case, Dr. John Bestor, Benjamin Ely, and Calvin Barber, each of whom had an interest in the enterprise. A sawmill was also operated in town by James Smith, Noah A. Phelps, and Amos Tuller. Phelps relates that a sawmill was erected below the falls in Scotland by Ephraim Howard around 1680.

To obtain good millstones was a difficult problem in the early days and it was considered as a particularly fortunate thing when by 1693 a quarry was discovered in Simsbury yielding a satisfactory stone for use in grinding. Just where this quarry was located is not known except for the following reference: "January 26, 1698-99 . . . Sergt James Hilliard requesteth that the Towne would be pleased to give him 30 acres of land at Weatoug lying on the east side of the mounayne at a place commonly called the Millstones. Granted by an affirmative vote." That the inhabitants thought they had a real economic asset is seen from a town vote in 1698 giving one Lamrock Flowers "liberty to get a paire of Milstones within the precincts of the Towneshipe of Simsbury . . . upon the condition he the said Flower doth pay to the Town Treasury, Twenty Shilling in Silvar Money." In 1718 the town passed an act that no millstone being found in the town commons could be worked up for a grindstone without obtaining the permission of the Selectmen and such stones could not be taken out of town without paying the town treasury three pounds per stone. We hear little more of the matter from this time on and presumably the discovery of other mineral resources in town engaged the attention of the townspeople.

Other manufactures had their birth about 1700. Much of their stimulus came from John Winthrop, the first Governor of Connecticut and a learned alchemist of his day. Upon his arrival in America he imported the first library and the first

chemical apparatus. In 1635 he obtained a commission from Lords Saye and Brook empowering him to develop the production of salt, iron, glass, potash, tar, black lead, saltpetre, medicines, copper and alum. Accordingly he established salt works in New London and he and his uncle were the first colonials to experiment with indigo manufacture. He started the American munitions industry when he got an act through the General Court of Massachusetts in 1642 ordering the production of materials "as will perfect the making of gunpowder, the instrumental means that all nations lay hould on for their preservation . . . Every plantation within the colony shall erect a house about 20 or 30 foote, and 20 foote wide within one half year next coming . . . to make saltpetre from urine of men, beastes, goates, hennes, hogs and horses' dung." Presumably the Connecticut Colony followed suit and if so, Simsbury had its saltpetre works. No record of such had been found in prior literature or records of Simsbury until recently. In an old tattered account book, presented to the Historical Society by Mrs. A. E. Schultz, occurred this reference: "Do (ditto) to Cart one lode of Durt to the Salt Peeter work." Apparently in every community from the earliest time up to 1800 there was a central plant where the refuse from the farm animals was collected for the purpose of extracting the valuable nitrates, and Simsbury was not the exception.

There is a record in 1787 of a quit-claim deed from Major Jonathan Humphrey, Jr. and Capt. David Phelps, which makes reference "to certain potash standing in said Simsbury on lot of land belonging to Joseph Humphrey a little east of said Humphrey's dwelling house." Further mention was made of a store of wood and "every accommodation to said potash and likewise all ye kettles, stone work, and buildings thereto belonging." Whether this was in the nature of a saltpetre manufactory or a strictly potash works is not known but the names of these two chemicals were sometimes confused in early usage. In any event we have an interesting record of an

early industry which was probably located in the neighborhood of the residence of Mrs. Aaron Eno and Owen's Brook.

The earliest industry of the town of which we have ample record is that of the gathering of pitch, tar and turpentine, which we have described in an earlier chapter. John Winthrop's paper "Of the Manner of Making Tar and Pitch in New England" prepared for Britain's Royal Society was the first report from America to any scientific body. The importance of this industry to the economic growth of America cannot be overestimated. In fact, it is rather significant that the search for new pine forests to be utilized for the making of pitch, tar and turpentine led John Griffin and Michael Humphrey to Massaco and brought about the eventual settling of Ancient Simsbury. Certainly its manufacture was a great asset which England early recognized and never attempted to restrict. Being a maritime power Britain's navy and commercial fleet required tremendous amounts of these so-called "naval stores", which could not be obtained at home. For over one hundred and fifty years, commencing as early as 1642, Simsbury yielded up her pine wood to the enterprising pioneers and townsmen for the sake of this industry, and Phelps in his history states that there were indications of the localities of some of the turpentine works plainly visible in his day. One of the great powers of the day was the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, who was actively engaged in the manufacture of turpentine besides his ministerial duties in Simsbury. In 1717 the town voted to sell him lands containing pine forests, probably for use in the business, and in 1728 a record of a lawsuit indicates that Woodbridge shipped nearly five tons of turpentine to New York at one time.

Besides the preëmpting of water-power sites many quarries, clay pits, gravel pits and the like were eagerly sought after and taken up by the early settlers. The quality of the red sandstone throughout the Simsbury area was particularly well adapted for foundation stones, gravestones, chimneys,

lintels and hearthstones. An old quarry, which yielded stone for the first dams on Hop Brook and for the foundation of the Timothy Woodbridge homestead as well as the walls of the Belden distillery, nearby dwellings, and the Hop Brook arches of the Farmington Canal in 1826, stood just across from the distillery on the south side of the brook. A later one, owned by Orestes Wilcox, stood easterly of the American Legion Hall and in 1888 an interesting bone of a prehistoric lizard was found there which was designated by O. C. Marsh, the great paleontologist at Yale, as the type of *Rutiodon* (*Belodon*) *validus*, a fish-feeding dinosaur inhabiting regions formerly near large bodies of water. Another large sand-stone quarry is due east of the present bridge at Terry's Plain in the sidehill of Talcott Mountain. Formerly owned and operated by A. J. Ketchin & Sons of Tariffville, it furnished stone for most of our public school buildings and for the factory of The Ensign-Bickford Company by which it is now owned and operated.

A clay pit was formerly worked just south of Hop Brook at the northwest end of Woodland Street. Gravel and sand banks were common everywhere. One of the largest of these is in the rear of the present Congregational Church and another was located south of the present gristmill across Hop Brook. The sand had a valuable silica content, which was required as a flux in the reduction of the copper ore that was smelted in the vicinity.

The great industry of its day, however, and one which thrilled not only the people of Simsbury and environs but excited foreign promoters to invest their capital in the enterprise, was the mining and smelting of copper. Probably no other series of events have made the name of Simsbury so familiar in history as the romantic episodes of the discovery of copper at Copper Hill in 1705, the development of the Simsbury Copper Mines and their later transformation into a famous colonial prison, Old Newgate. To Ancient Simsbury

goes all honor and glory for having pioneered the first copper mine in America and having established the first smelter for the reduction of its ores.

The first recorded news of the discovery of copper is found in a minute of the town meeting in 1705 as follows: "There being a report made in the town Meeting of either sillvar or coper min or Minerall found within the Lymitts of the township of Simsbury eastwardly et, the town being Meet to gather December the 18th 1705=did mak choise of Decon Holcomb and John Pettibon Jun^r to mak serch for the same bringin an account of the Same the next meeting. Voted in the affirmative." Whatever report this committee made we do not know, but the vigilant town fathers held another meeting within a month and sequestered to the town's use all mines or minerals found in any grants of land made by the town, "reserving for ever for the Towne use and dispossall all such mines or mineralls." Copper Hill at that time was a wilderness and, as the lands were as yet ungranted, the rights remained in the possession of the inhabitants of Simsbury.

The next step was to open up a subscription list to all the people of Simsbury giving them a chance to participate in the venture in accordance with the size of their taxable estates. A committee of the subscribers was appointed, consisting of James Cornish, Joseph Case, Sergeant Adams, Lieut. Thomas Barber and John Griffin, and they were empowered to proceed with the opening of the mines and the supervision of the work. The various subscribers, as proprietors of the mines, agreed not to dispose of their rights to persons not inhabitants of the town without the consent of the major part of the proprietors and only after they had been given an opportunity to take up the rights themselves.

What an extraordinary affair this was for sixty-four persons, representing eighty-six per cent of the taxable inhabitants of the town in 1706, suddenly to become shareholders in this unexpected enterprise! There had immediately been opened to

them a vision of untold wealth which seemed about to lighten the burdens of their daily toil beyond their wildest dreams. In their anticipation of profits they were inspired to an unusual liberality and a remarkable idealism, for we find in the first contract with the "undertakers," who were to smelt and refine the copper, the provision "that off Every parcell of Coper thus refined or wrought, before any division be made thereof, the tenth part of it, both for quantity and quality shall be taken from it: for pious uses: (viz,) two thirds of it shall be to the maintaining an able Schoolmaster in Simsbury the other third part shall be given to the use of the Collegiate School erected within this Collony to be improved as the trustees of said School Shall see good . . ." Thus almost their first thought was for the schooling of their children and for the encouragement of Yale College.

The above-mentioned "undertakers" were Mr. John Woodbridge of Springfield, Mr. Dudley Woodbridge of Simsbury, Messrs. Timothy Woodbridge, Senior and Junior, of Hartford, and Mr. Hezekiah Wylls of Hartford. At that time Rev. Dudley Woodbridge had been the minister in Simsbury for ten years. Undoubtedly through his influence the other members of his family became interested to engage in the more complex business of managing the smelter. Very little, if anything, was known in those days regarding the smelting of ores, especially of this particular sort which was very refractory. It is perhaps natural that the people of Simsbury would have thought their minister, who was the most learned man in town, the proper person to delve into the mysteries and solve the problems in connection with the reduction of the ore. These associated gentlemen agreed to set up a smelter and to "Faithfully Runne and refine the sd oar that shall by the subscribers and proprietors affores^d, be delivered to them at the S^d works and cast and worke into Barrs or other figuers as Shall be fitt for transportation or a market." After the ten per cent had been taken out "for pious uses", the remaining

ninety per cent was to be divided equally between the undertakers and the proprietors. Ten shillings per ton was to go to the town and be taken from the above-mentioned ten per cent.

The good people of Simsbury, however, true to nature soon fell into dispute over their ownership of the mines. Some people apparently claimed a greater proprietary interest than others, and some proceeded to sell out their interests to outsiders; others refused to put up their fair share of the original assessments, "greatly to the disturbance of the peace of many principall persons in said town, Patentes proprietors and Inhabitants," who straightway held a meeting and recorded their protest "in our Town record booke." The General Assembly by this time took cognizance of the situation and, in a manner resembling some of the more modern practices of our nation and others, decided to "regiment" the new, infant industry by an enactment in 1709. Control of the mines was vested in the majority rule of the proprietors, whose vote was to be in proportion to their ownership, and it was required that at least one regular, general meeting of the proprietors should be held annually, even the day for it being named. The most unique feature of all was the provision for a commission of three men, appointed annually by the Court, to settle all differences, quarrels, or lawsuits and, if the amount involved exceeded forty shillings, the commissioners could impanel a jury of twelve men to decide the matter and exact court fees the same as in the county courts.

This Commission, consisting of Messrs. Pitkin and Haynes of Hartford and Mr. Hooker of Farmington, soon settled several important problems for the townspeople. In the first place, the proprietors of the mines were deemed to be all those, whether actually living in the town or not, who owned land and were taxed there in 1706; secondly, the prior limitation of the ownership to those who had signed the original

subscription list was abrogated and a new one made up; and lastly, the tax list for 1706 was adjudged the basis for the proportional ownership of the proprietors. Under these acts and judgments the business went along for several years. The Rev. Dudley Woodbridge died and those who succeeded him in the management apparently did not prosecute it to advantage, so in 1712 the association of proprietors abrogated their contract with the Woodbridges. In the same year they leased the mines for thirty years to William Partridge of Newbury, Mass., on behalf of himself, a Boston merchant by the name of Mr. Jonathan Belcher and the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, Jr., who on the death of his uncle had just assumed the ministry in Simsbury.

That there was a clear-cut distinction by this time between the proprietors of the mines and the inhabitants of Simsbury is revealed by some interesting votes. Apparently many newcomers had settled in town, who had not been listed taxpayers in 1706, hence were not owners of the mine, but yet were town inhabitants by 1712 and, as citizens, entitled to vote in town meeting. It should also be observed in these votes that the rental of the mines was bringing in a comfortable revenue for those times. On Dec. 29, 1712 the proprietors voted that a portion of the eighty pounds received from Col. Partridge should be appropriated to the payment "of such charges as hath been expended about the copper = And also to pay Joseph Segar the remainder of his due for the land bought of him for the town." And "at a town meeting of the Inhabitants of Simsbury the day and year above written . . . the town inhabitants of Simsbury Voted a compliance with the above s^d paragraph." At a later meeting the *proprietors* voted to give over to the *town* eighty pounds from Col. Partridge on condition that the town grant the proprietors a thirty-year privilege of all the mines, except iron mines, found on the common lands of Simsbury. The town agreed to this and voted

that the money should be disposed of "for the procuring of a town Stock of Ammunition by sending to Boston or other ways"

The new management took hold with renewed vigor and soon interested foreign capital in the venture, as indicated by various records of conveyances. Skilled Germans were imported from Hanover to assist in the mining and smelting operations. Among them were Major John Sydervelt, who owned property in East Weatogue and died in Simsbury; Caspar Hoofman, who died here in 1732; and John Christian Müller, who married Hannah Weston and had two children and died here. According to Phelps the name was changed to Miller after his death and some of his descendants were still living in Granby a century later. Elaborate smelting works were erected on Hop Brook in 1721 approximately where the present Mill Pond bridge stands. There was a crusher, a furnace and sundry other buildings no longer standing, although Dr. Barber reported that in his day large masses of copper cinders or slag and other debris of the mines could be seen near Mill Pond. By reference to the old 1730 map of Simsbury the name "Hannover" is found applied to this district, which derived its appellation from the settlement of German workmen referred to above and was commonly applied to that locality as late as the middle of the nineteenth century.

It early became a law of the English Parliament that copper could not be smelted or refined in the colonies, hence it should be remembered that the works on Hop Brook had to be operated with secrecy and at a great disadvantage. No doubt this repressive act of Britain, by discouraging local industry, did much to deprive the Simsbury townspeople of what they thought their just due from the mines and had a direct bearing upon their unusually loyal support of the Revolutionary cause.

In the interim from 1712 to 1742, when the lease made to Partridge and Belcher expired, a great boom in the shares of the enterprise occurred and the shrewd Yankee "undertakers" split up their leases and sold portions of them at fancy prices to French and Dutch capitalists. Several companies then proceeded to mine copper at several points within a mile radius of Copper Hill but it is not known whether they realized much profit on the venture and, on the contrary, it is known that large sums had to be put into the mines. In a letter from Governor Belcher of Massachusetts dated 1735 he states that he had disbursed upwards of fifteen thousand pounds for that purpose. Much of the ore was consigned to England and shipped across the Atlantic, as the many notices of ore shipments by Boston merchants, found in the so-called "Belcher papers", reveal. At least one cargo of ore was seized by the French, then at war with England, and another one sunk in the English Channel by shipwreck.

On the expiration of the lease in 1742 the proprietors rented the mines to Col. Adam Winthrop of Boston and others for thirty more years. In 1772 the proprietors executed a lease of the mines for twenty more years to Capt. James Holmes of Salisbury, who was to work them for one-thirtieth part of the ore. The next year he sold his lease to the county for a prison as we shall presently see.

Coincident with the early workings of the mines on Copper Hill, a very unusual Yankee was pursuing his own independent way about a mile and a half distant to the south. This Samuel Higley was the fourth son and eighth child of Capt. John and Hannah Drake Higley and was born about 1687 in the Higley homestead, which at one time had been owned by Simon Wolcott and stood approximately opposite the present Town Farm. Its location can easily be found on the 1730 map of Ancient Simsbury. His father was an important man in early Simsbury and was chosen not only Townsman but

also to be one of the original patentees. A tradition, based on an old private manuscript in the hands of Higley descendants, is to the effect that Ensign John Higley was present at the famous meeting in Hartford when Governor Andros attempted to seize the Connecticut Charter and that the Charter was given to Higley, who mounted his horse and galloped off with it to Higley-town where he kept it secreted six weeks before it finally found its well-known hiding place in the famous oak tree in Hartford.

Of such a father was Samuel Higley born. Showing many of his father's excellent qualities of mind at an early age, he was given every opportunity to attain an excellent education. Following two years at Yale he became a school teacher, then studied physics and surgery under Drs. Thomas Hooker and Samuel Mather of Hartford and obtained a license to practice medicine. Receiving lands, on his father's death in 1714, and marrying in 1719 he probably settled soon afterwards on his property in Turkey Hills, for the ancient map shows his home as being in the notch of the mountain where the road leads to Turkey Hills settlement. Besides doctoring, being of an experimental nature, he turned his hand to the smelting and refining of the iron ore, which by 1699 had been located in Windsor at Tilton's Marsh and was being smelted at the "Iron Works" on Stony Brook in Turkey Hills probably as early as 1702 and certainly by 1710. The location of the iron works is seen on the old map. Living as he did within a mile or so of the newly-opened mines at Copper Hill, and being of a convivial, friendly, and inquisitive nature, it is logical to believe that Samuel Higley questioned some of the Hanover workmen, as they sat chatting over a rum toddy or a cider brandy at a neighboring tavern, and learned from them enough of metallurgy to apply it to the problem of iron, which was being smelted only a few miles to the east. In any event he soon succeeded in discovering a process for the manufacture of steel in 1727, which ought to earn for him and for his

native Simsbury the homage of the great steel and allied industries as their godfather and patron saint. It is true that European steel was being imported at the time, but no one in this country knew the secret of its manufacture nor had had the enterprise to initiate its discovery for American use until Samuel Higley paved the way.

In 1728 he presented a petition to the General Court stating that "he hath with great pains and costs, found out and obtained a curious art, by which to convert, change or transmute common iron into good steel, sufficient for any use, and was the very first that ever performed such an operation in America, having the most perfect knowledge thereof confirmed by many experiments; . . . and has good reason to hope that he shall produce as good or better steel than what comes from over sea, and at considerable cheaper rate . . ." and praying for an exclusive right to manufacture the article for a term of years. This request was granted for ten years on condition that he bring it to reasonable perfection in two years' time.

This invention of steel by Higley started a whole train of undertakings for its manufacture. In 1740 a privilege was granted by the General Court to Thomas Fitch, George Wyllis and Robert Walker, Jr. for a term of fifteen years to make steel in Connecticut provided they made at least a half a ton a year. A furnace was erected on Hop Brook in Simsbury, westerly of the present gristmill and probably in connection with the copper smelter, inasmuch as the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge had become associated with them. On him "they principally depended for ye skill in preparing ye furnace and making ye experiment" and when he died their plans were greatly delayed and their privilege expired. The General Court revived their grant and in 1744 the undertakers certified to the Court "that there has been made more than a half a ton of steel at the furnace in Symsbury which was erected for that purpose by the gentlemen to whom said

grant was made." They exhibited instruments made of this steel "as a specimen of ye goodness thereof to answer ye intentions of German steel."

Significantly therefore, in 1750 this and other similar attempts of the colonists aroused Parliament to pass a law forbidding "the erection or continuance of any mill or other engine for slitting or rolling iron, or any plaiting forge, to work with a tilt-hammer, or any furnace for *making steel*, in the colonies, under penalty of two hundred pounds." Every such manufacturing plant was declared a common nuisance which the royal governors were to suppress under penalty of five hundred pounds within thirty days. It is no wonder that the piling of straw upon straw of this nature finally broke the back of the colonial camel and brought affairs to such a head that our forefathers felt justified in joining the Revolution.

We must return once again to the ingenious Doctor Higley. In 1728 he purchased a large tract of land extending from the "vineyard notch," where the road crosses the mountain to Turkey Hills, southerly to Higley's Marsh. Upon this property he soon located copper and proceeded to open up a shaft which ever since has been known as the Higley Mine. The mine is now on the property of the Wimpfheimers and lies easterly of the road that leads from Tariffville to Newgate and about a mile and a half south of Newgate. There are two shafts still visible but now quite choked with debris, although rock containing traces of copper can still be picked up. Much of the mine dump has been removed for purposes of road-building. Apparently most of the ore was shipped abroad, as Higley is supposed to have lost his life at sea in 1737, when a boat carrying a cargo of his ore sank.

Not all of this ore was shipped abroad, however, and we find a most unusual product being turned out by the enterprising Higley. He designed and manufactured the first *copper* coinage in America. In 1694 a copper piece struck for

a medal appeared in Carolina and it may have been in usage for money but the "Higley Copper" was intentionally produced for coinage purposes, although there was no authorization by the colony for it. The current deficiency in the circulation of coins in America probably was the inducement that led to their manufacture. Upon the cover and title page of this book may be seen a most excellent reproduction of a Higley Copper now reposing in the State Library. Rubbings were made from both sides of the coin and from these the artist, Mr. Morton C. Hansen, made his drawings. Several issues are known. The obverses of all of them are similar: A deer standing; below him a hand, a star and III; around him is the legend inclosed in two circles—"Value Me as you please." There are at least three reverses: The first has three hammers crowned and the legend—"I am good copper"—a hand, some dots fancifully arranged and the date 1737; the second variety has a broad-axe and the legend—"I cut my way through"; and the third variety, the legend—"Connecticut"—and a date. Probably the earliest coins were undated and were inscribed with the legend, "the value of three-pence," although this is not absolutely certain. The representation of the blacksmith's hammer surmounted by a crown might be considered as a humorous protest to the regulation of colonial industry by the Crown and, if so, gives a real flavor to the personality of the Yankee designer.

The coin is said to have passed for two and sixpence (forty-two cents) in paper currency. It was in usage not only as currency but, owing to the fine quality of the metal, was in great demand as an alloy for gold, hence its present scarcity. An interesting tale is told about the doctor. The deposit of the copper in the mine was so rich that he used to enter his mine with a pick, obtain a lump of almost pure metal, hammer out a coin and proceed to the nearby tavern for a social mug with his friends. The usual price for a drink being threepence, he paid his bill in his own early coin bear-

ing the legend, "the value of three-pence." The good tavern-keeper soon had a cash-drawer full of these coins and questioned their stated value. This made Higley quite angry. After a prolonged absence he returned to the tavern and for his drinks presented coppers bearing the well-known legends, "Value me as you please," and "I am good copper."

The Higley Mine was supposedly worked at a later date by the Quincys of Boston and others up until the Revolution when operations were discontinued. Along with the mines at Copper Hill, then called Newgate Prison, the old mine was revived about 1830 and a company of gentlemen from New York formed the Phoenix Mining Company and engaged Richard Bacon to be Superintendent. The works were carried on for about seven years and in the business depression of 1837, went out of business. In 1855 the Connecticut Copper Company was formed which worked the mines for two years. An influx of Lake Superior copper, however, undermined the market and the mines have since been idle.

Many reports by noted geologists and metallurgists have testified to the richness of the ore and to its prevalence throughout the Copper Hill area. The average yield was about fifteen per cent and some ore yielded as high as forty per cent; but its refractory nature, as previously stated, prevented its economical reduction.

A brief mention only will be made of Newgate Prison because the story of the transformation of the Simsbury Copper Mines into use as a famous colonial prison is well known and reference can easily be made to the reprint of Richard H. Phelps' "Newgate of Connecticut" issued in 1927 by Mr. Clarence W. Seymour, who now owns the historic location. In 1773 a commission appointed by the General Assembly examined the property and reported back that it could be adapted as a jail. Accordingly in October 1773, an act was passed entitled:

An Act for constituting, regulating, and governing a Public Gaol or Work-House, in the Copper Mines in Symsbury, and for the Punishment of certain atrocious Crimes and Felonies.—

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representatives in General Court assembled and by the Authority of the same. That the subterraneous caverns and buildings in the copper mines in Symsbury—lately purchased and erected by Order of the General Assembly, with such other buildings as may hereafter be erected and made in said caverns—or on the surface of the earth at or near the mouth of the same, shall be, and they are hereby constituted and made a public gaol and work-house, for the use of this Colony, and shall be called and named New-Gate Prison, and shall be kept and maintained in good and sufficient repair, at the expence of this Colony.

That there shall be a master or keeper and three overseers of said gaol or work-house, nominated and appointed, from time to time, as there may be occasion, by the General Assembly;

At that time there were no enclosures or fences above ground and all the lodgings and workhouses for the prisoners were underground. It was not until a year or two later that the elaborate superstructure, as seen in the famous old print of Newgate began to appear [see frontispiece]. The first keeper was Capt. John Viets. The first prisoner was John Hinson, who achieved immediate notoriety by promptly escaping from the prison, being drawn up through the eastern shaft by the aid of a woman. For several months prisoners continually escaped and it became necessary to erect a blockhouse in 1777, which the prisoners soon burned. A series of bloody encounters between prisoners and guards ensued, wholesale jail deliveries took place, and other incendiary fires destroyed the wooden shops and guardhouses. In nine years fire swept the prison three times.

In 1775 General Washington wrote a letter to the Committee of Safety in Simsbury which shows the widespread fame of Newgate:

Cambridge, Dec. 11, 1775.

Gentlemen;—The prisoners which will be delivered you with this, having been tried by a court-martial, and deemed to be such flagrant and atrocious villains that they cannot by any means be set at large, or confined in any place near this camp, were sentenced to Symbsbury in Connecticut. You will therefore be pleased to have them secured in your jail, or in such other manner as to you shall seem necessary, so that they cannot possibly make their escape. The charges of their imprisonment will be at the Continental expense.

I am &c.

George Washington.

Many Loyalists were confined at Newgate during the Revolution and at one time the total reached between thirty and forty. A noted Tory, Simeon Baxter, preached a famous sermon to his fellow prisoners which was reprinted in London in 1782. Doubtless too the Rev. Roger Viets of Scotland expounded the gospel to them. A rhyme composed by one of the Tory prisoners in derision of the rebels has come down to us:

“Many of them in halters will swing,
Before John Hancock will ever be king.”

In 1790 Newgate became the official State Prison and a wooden palisade was constructed, which remained until the stone wall was built by Lieut. Calvin Barber in 1802. Other buildings were erected of stone to house the guards. The old Newgate print, therefore, can be dated about 1800, since the palisades and old guard house are distinctly shown. In 1827 the State Prison was moved to Wethersfield where it now stands.

The renewal of mining at Newgate, referred to above, has an interesting corollary, which serves to introduce another manufacture for which Simsbury is justly renowned. Apparently Richard Bacon, who was running the Phoenix Mine at Newgate, obtained information that a new invention had been perfected in England about 1831 by which powder

could be exploded by means of a safety time-fuse. Determined to have this new article, which was revolutionizing the art of blasting, for use in his mine, he entered into negotiations with the English firm of Bickford, Smith and Davey and eventually formed a co-partnership with them in 1837 for the manufacture of safety fuse in America. It is quite possible, and tradition so seems to relate, that the very first fuse was manufactured at Newgate the year previous and that small experimental lots were spun in one of the barns belonging to Mr. Bacon in East Weatogue just south of the present residence of Miss Mary Eno. By 1838 the manufacture was definitely established in East Weatogue at a site where the brook, known as the Devil's Stairs, issues from the hillside east of the present home of Mr. Fred F. Phelps. In 1839 Joseph Toy was sent over by the English partners to represent them in the firm, which was then called Bacon, Bickford, Eales & Co. A Cornishman, born in the hamlet of Roskear, he was also a licensed preacher in the Wesleyan church and because of this accomplishment was in demand throughout his life for preaching at Methodist services in Simsbury and surrounding towns. In 1842 Joseph Eales left the firm and Joseph Toy became more influential in the growing company. Early in 1851 a serious fire totally destroyed the fuse plant. By this time Mr. Bacon, being afflicted with rheumatism, apparently became discouraged and decided not to rebuild the factory. On behalf, therefore, of the English partners Joseph Toy moved the factory to a water-power site on Hop Brook where the present factory now stands. The East Weatogue factory site reverted to Bacon's ownership. The old cellar excavation with its foundations and the canal for bringing water from the brook to the waterwheel can still be seen and recently bricks and small powder cans have been found in the vicinity.

The new firm became Toy, Bickford & Co. and continued to prosper under Toy's leadership growing larger year by year

as the opening up of western lands added new mining regions to be developed. At least four serious fires have occurred at the Simsbury plant. In 1859 eight women were killed and Mr. Toy's son was badly burned in an explosion. In 1879 three lives were lost in a similar disaster. Another explosion occurred in 1892 taking one life, and at the close of the World War there was a gas explosion in the building used for priming hand-grenade fuses, which caused the death of two girls. In spite of the hazards of the business and the numerous setbacks the company received, it continued its growth, absorbing in 1907 the Climax Fuse Co. in Avon.

On the death of the Rev. Joseph Toy the partnership took the name of Ensign, Bickford & Co. By this time three of Mr. Toy's sons-in-law had been taken into the business and the oldest of these, Mr. Ralph H. Ensign, was the senior partner, the others being Mr. Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth and Mr. Charles Edson Curtiss. In 1907 the partnership became a corporation under the name of The Ensign-Bickford Company and it is still actively managed largely by descendants and relatives of the original Mr. Toy.

By keeping in constant touch with the latest trends in blasting practice and developing a quality product which meets with wide favor in the United States, in Mexico and South America, the company is able to maintain successfully its competitive position. It manufactures its own jute yarns, has a small cotton mill, just now idle, and maintains a laboratory for testing its materials and products. Including officers and clerks about three hundred people receive employment at Simsbury and seventy-five at the Avon plant.

In the year 1913 The Ensign-Bickford Company introduced cordeau into the United States. This is an instantaneous, detonating, flexible, lead tube filled with trinitrotoluene. The invention was obtained for America from French fuse manufacturers and has been made here since 1914. It finds especial favor with miners in quarries or open-pit mines, where well-

drill shooting or tunnel shooting is employed requiring the exploding of several holes instantaneously. Cordeau is also used for testing the rate of detonation of high explosives.

In 1936 the company is expecting to celebrate its one hundredth anniversary on which occasion no doubt a more detailed story of its history will be available.

Having pioneered in the fields of copper mining and smelting, the invention of steel, the coinage of copper, and the first American manufacture of safety fuse and cordeau, it would seem as though Ancient Simsbury's cup of pride should have been full. Her Yankee characteristics, however, brought forth one further flower of invention. Connecticut manufacturing sites have an unusual continuity of life, although they seldom continue to manufacture the same product throughout the years. A typical example of this may be observed in the history of Spoonville, now East Granby. Back in 1812 the Rev. Whitfield Cowles ran a peppermint distillery at a site on the north bank of the Farmington River, an eighth of a mile below the Scotland (now Spoonville) bridge. Succeeding this came a wire mill, where iron rods were drawn down to the fineness of wire, which was sold for use in making cards for combing wool, at that time a thriving industry. Following in his father's footsteps, William B. Cowles began the manufacture of German silver spoons in the old factory about 1840. In 1843 three Hartford silversmiths who had been experimenting with silver-plating came to East Granby to pool their knowledge with that of Mr. Cowles. These three men were William Rogers, Asa Rogers, and James Isaacson. The resulting silver or electro-plated spoons and forks which they turned out led not only to the origin of the name Spoonville for the district but also to the formation of the firm of the Cowles Manufacturing Company in 1845. The next year the Rogers brothers left the firm and set up their own business at No. 4 State Street, Hartford. The building is still standing and there in 1847 they brought out, under the name of "Rogers Brothers,"

the silver plate so well-known today. The Cowles Company, bereft of its most inventive spirits, soon declined under the competition of the new plated silver of the Rogers Brothers and about 1851 it drew to a close. The mill site then was given over to the manufacture of shoddy which was given up in 1896. Spoonville in East Granby, a former part of Ancient Simsbury, has the distinction of being the real birthplace of the famous Rogers plated silverware.

No account of Simsbury manufactures would be complete without reference to the tax lists of Simsbury, which about 1800 began to enumerate the different professions and manufactures in the town. By comparing them over a period of time one can trace the decline in old professions, the entry of new enterprises upon the scene, their growth and eventual decline. Even in the brief space of ten years, as seen in the following tabulation, some significant changes can be observed and a real insight gained into the life of a century and a quarter ago:

SIMSBURY—EXCLUSIVE OF CANTON

	1801	1811		1801	1811
Attorneys	2	2	Hatter	1	—
Physicians & Surgeons	1	1	Joiners, Carpenters,		
Merchants and Traders	3	3	Coopers	6	7
Tavernkeepers	11	9	Owners of Corn Mills	12	8
Blacksmiths	6	6	(Some are part owners)		
Shoemakers	10	5	Owners of saw mills	8	8
Saddlers	1	5	(Some are part owners)		
Tinners	3	2	Carding Machines	—	5
Masons & Stonecutters	4	1	(Representing 2 factories)		
Clothiers	2	2	Distillers of Spirits	—	20

The leading tinner in this period was Titus Barber, who manufactured tinware and sent itinerant peddlers into the South. Realizing great profits, he became, for those times, a wealthy man. He built and lived in the house now occupied by Mr. A. R. Betts in Hopmeadow Street. Somewhat later

Luke Reed and Moses Ensign engaged in the same business and employed a large number of hands.

The outstanding mason of his time was Calvin Barber, who acquired the quarry across Hop Brook from the distillery of Case, Barber and Ely, furnished stone for building the Canal arches on Hop Brook and took the contract for building the walls of Newgate Prison. The chief clothier was Deacon Jonathan Noble who had a factory on Hop Brook where The Ensign-Bickford plant now stands. These works later became a cotton mill. The making of barrels was quite an industry at one period and a factory was located at Meadow Plain.

Apparently the growth in the wool industry, which we observed had a great boom owing to the importation of merino sheep, required carding equipment. At first hand cards were made, and Thomas Case for many years conducted a factory for their construction, which was located opposite his house and on land now owned by Mr. Henry E. Ellsworth. This old card factory was subsequently moved north on Hopmeadow Street, where it now stands and is in use as a blacksmith shop. A picture of this building taken recently may be seen on page 105. The manufacture of machine cards soon ensued and a factory was established by Elisha Phelps and Luke Prouty on the banks of the Farmington Canal near Elisha Phelps' house.

These cards, whether of the hand or machine type, required teeth or wires, hence wire mills were numerous in this vicinity. Messrs. Allyn and Phelps erected works for iron wire manufacture at Tariffville, where the Tariffville Lace Company now stands, and they also made cards. The iron was obtained from Salisbury, rolled into three-quarter inch rods at Winsted and brought to Tariffville where it was drawn into fine wire for card teeth. We have already referred to the Cowles wire mill at Spoonville which was running about the same time. In Simsbury a wire mill was estab-

lished by Messrs. Phelps and Prouty about 1826 on Hop Brook well above the present Mill Pond. Traces of the dam and sluiceway can still be observed along the brook.

The great growth in distilleries has been commented upon in an earlier chapter. The chief one in Simsbury was that of Case, Barber and Ely, erected and put in operation by them in 1803 at the site of a former gristmill. In consequence of some business transaction, the distillery was taken over as a bad debt by Thomas Belden, a merchant and shipowner of Hartford, and his son Horace Belden was placed in charge. The distillery produced an excellent gin and was pecuniarily profitable for many years. Owing to scruples of conscience his son Horace, a man well-known to our generation and a great benefactor to the town, closed down the works. It remains, as may be seen in the illustration on page 133 a unique vestige of olden-time manufacture in Simsbury and a quaint and picturesque sight comparable to those in the Old World which many a traveller crosses the ocean to exclaim over and photograph.

¶ The Manhood of Simsbury— a Brief Introduction to the Mature Period in Which We Now Live.

WE HAVE attended our fair town at its birth, nourished it through its infancy and childhood, encouraged its progress through the fiery prime of youth, and now we see it standing in full-fledged manhood—a fine and worthy citizen of the state and nation. Its wide village street shaded by the giant elms and sycamores of another day, its lovely homes and lawns, its well-kept stores and factories, and its prosperous farms bear witness to those qualities of heart and mind which our ancestors handed down to us. These they derived from incessant toil and unremitting warfare against whatever forces of man or nature sought to deprive them of the opportunities to live their own lives in their own way. Its schools and churches and its beautiful Town Hall testify to a friendly, cooperative, community spirit and give ample evidence of the generous benefactions of those who wished to give expression of the genuine esteem and deep affection which they held for the place of their birth.

Perhaps we are living too close to modern events to see them in their proper perspective but we cannot help feeling that the comparative tranquillity and security of life in Simsbury today are evidence that the town has entered upon a period of maturity.

We can perhaps best take up the thread of the political history of Simsbury where we left off at the beginning of the nineteenth century. As we have seen, Simsbury was divided into two ecclesiastical societies. In 1806 the boundary between these became the dividing line between Simsbury and a new town incorporated as Canton. By this division the territory and population of Simsbury were reduced by nearly one-half, so that in 1810 its inhabitants numbered only nineteen hundred. Even this partitioning-off of a section of the town was not sufficient and in 1843 that part of Simsbury lying east of Talcott Mountain, being a part of the old Wintonbury parish, was annexed to the town of Bloomfield. From being one of the largest towns in area at the time of its organization up to the time of the Revolution, Simsbury now became one of the smallest towns of the State. In these days, when it is easy to get about with the automobile over the many excellent roads, it is hard to see why it ever became necessary to break up the old townships of Connecticut into smaller political units. We must realize, however, that in those early days the meeting house and church were centers of political discussion as well as taxing districts and it was only natural that political and social lines would follow in consequence of the division into ecclesiastical parishes. A large country area was too unwieldy for efficient administration at that period.

The War of 1812 had been participated in by New England with great reluctance. The military forces in the field were supplied and sustained by drafts from the militia. Among the old papers of Colonel Barber were found numerous certificates of physical disability and ill health of those who were liable to duty at that time. This fact indicates that the people

of Simsbury did not look upon the war with any great degree of interest. At its conclusion there ensued a long period of peace, which left the inhabitants plenty of time to pursue their independent way and give full play to the development of their industries.

Shortly after the War of 1812, occurred the great canal era. In 1822 proposals began to appear for a canal to run northward from New Haven. The original proposal was that it should run from the tidewaters of the harbor at New Haven through Simsbury to Southwick, Mass., and a branch canal should run along the Farmington River through New Hartford to the north line of Colebrook. This branch was never completed, but a Massachusetts company connected up the Southwick section of the canal with the Connecticut River at Northampton. The Farmington Canal Company was chartered and subscriptions were taken for the capital stock. As far as information is available, it was a wisely conceived scheme to meet a real need and there was every reason to expect it to be profitable. If everything had worked out satisfactorily, Vermont and New Hampshire would have built the canal north to the Canadian border and a Canadian group would then have carried it to the St. Lawrence River. This would have resulted in an international waterway from Long Island Sound to the St. Lawrence River with incalculable benefits to the towns along its route.

In 1823 a survey was completed and the estimated cost of the work was \$420,000. The canal was to be twenty feet wide at the bottom and about thirty-five feet at the water surface, with a depth of water of four feet. Many of the streams which crossed the route of the canal were to be employed in providing the water supply. It was indeed a tremendous undertaking. The first earth was turned on July 4th, 1825, when a ceremony was held in Granby. The services of the day were commenced with a prayer by the Rev. Allen McLean of Simsbury. Governor Wolcott of Connecticut, the

President of the Farmington Canal Co. and many others were escorted by the Simsbury Artillery northward along the route of the canal. Besides the purchase and condemnation of land, all the streams had to be bridged by arches or aqueducts. In order to carry the canal over the higher areas, twenty-eight locks through the Connecticut stretch had to be constructed to provide a continuous descent of two hundred and twenty feet from the Massachusetts line to Long Island Sound. The entire canal eventually had sixty locks with a rise of two hundred and ninety-two feet and a descent of two hundred and thirteen feet going from the Sound to the Connecticut River. By 1828 water had been let in here and there on its length and the principal business was the carrying of excursion parties short distances with much hilarity, oratory, music and good cheer, as an advertisement of the great things which were to be. A specimen card published in *The Connecticut Courant*, returning thanks to the good people of Simsbury for one of these pleasant occasions, reads as follows:

The undersigned, a committee in behalf of nearly 200 ladies and gentlemen who were gratuitously furnished with passage and entertainment on board the new and elegant packet boat "Weatogue" built and owned by our enterprising citizen, John O. Pettibone, Esquire, which made an excursion from Simsbury to the aqueduct across the Farmington River, at Farmington, on Thursday afternoon, the 23rd of October, present the thanks of the party to the proprietor for his politeness and liberality manifested upon the occasion, and to Capt. Ennis for his accommodating and gentlemanly conduct, likewise to the citizens of Northington for the cheerful greeting and cordial reception of the boat and party in that village. This, with Mr. Gridley's handsome boat, "The American Eagle" of Farmington which passed us on an excursion of pleasure northward, being the two first boats which have navigated this part of the line, afforded a scene no less interesting from its novelty than gratifying to our citizens as an event furnishing evidence of the completion of the Canal.



OLD BELDEN DISTILLERY



OLD CANAL VIADUCT ARCH

SCENES ON HOP BROOK.

From this it may be seen that the company did not own all the boats which passed through it and that anyone could build and operate one upon paying toll.

When the canal was completed in 1836 the Connecticut and Massachusetts companies were hopelessly in debt and a reorganization was effected under the name of the New Haven and Northampton Company. The old stock was surrendered by the stockholders and the debts were adjusted with a loss to all concerned of roundly a million dollars. It is hard today to realize the importance of the canal. The newspapers of the time show many an advertisement of homes and farms indicated as highly desirable, being such-and-such a distance from the canal. Hotels were built along its banks and well situated residences were turned into hostelries to receive the trade that was expected to accrue from its traffic. Such a building in Simsbury was the Captain Elisha Phelps Tavern which at that time bore the name of "The Canal Hotel."

In spite of the many advantages of the canal, there were here and there disgruntled farmers who never hesitated to open breaches in its banks or in other ways to wreak their spite upon the venture. Dry seasons also occurred, which diminished the supply of water from the feeder streams; and, at other times, freshets caused considerable damage. These annoyances were sufficient reason why the company was unable to build up financial reserves to withstand the culminating blow which it received from the competition of the railroads. Finally the owners attempted to compromise with fate by building a railroad along the lower canal right-of-way. By 1848 the upper section of the canal was entirely abandoned.

Though the canal is gone, here and there we see evidences of its tortuous, water-level route through our countryside. Today its bed is dry and in places quite overgrown with brush and even good-sized trees. A few ruined arches and culverts remain not only to indicate its former course across our streams

but also to stir our imaginations to envision the romance and glamour attendant upon the glorious days of its operation.

Except for the famous aqueduct piers across the Farmington River south of Avon, the most picturesque ruins of the old canal are the arches built from our native sandstone by Calvin Barber in 1826 to span Hop Brook. The illustration shown on page 133 depicts the scene which is so familiar to many who look westward from the highway bridge near the Ensign-Bickford Company factory. We cannot easily imagine how our town looked with a canal running along its central thoroughfare but Dr. Barber states that it ran southward along the west side of Hopmeadow Street as far as the cemetery, where, crossing the street diagonally, it was spanned by a high unseemly bridge. When the railroad was constructed the bridge was taken down and the canal levelled by the town.

The next great event in Simsbury was the building of the railroad chartered by the New Haven and Northampton Canal Company north from New Haven and Plainville in 1850. It was still generally known as the "Canal Road" within the memory of present-day inhabitants. By 1871 the Connecticut Western Railroad was constructed to provide a route from Hartford westwardly to New York state and, subsequently, to the Hudson River. Simsbury, being the junction of these two lines, received considerable benefit from them and in their heyday, it is said, twenty-two trains a day entered the two Simsbury stations. During the construction of the Connecticut Western, by way of encouragement and aid, the town of Simsbury appropriated fifty thousand dollars to invest in the common stock of the road. When it suffered financial reverses and went into the hands of the receivers, all this stock became valueless, but in retrospect the advantages that accrued to the town were ample recompense for the loss. Subsequently, control of it passed into the hands of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company, and eventually, as the Central New England Railroad, it dwindled

in importance until superseded by the automobile passenger bus about the year 1926. The Canal Road soon became the Northampton Division of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and as such is operated today carrying freight only.

The War of the Rebellion, which commenced in 1861, came as a serious interruption to American life. We can only understand why the people of Simsbury rushed to the Union cause if we realize that the Civil War symbolized not only the passing of the old era of agriculture based on slave labor but the arrival of the new era of industry and enterprise which had brought with it great social changes. All of these issues were popularized by such propaganda as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and the activities of the Abolitionists. Just ten days after the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, a town meeting was held "to consult with reference to the present crisis in our international affairs." The meeting at once appointed a committee of five gentlemen to receive and distribute funds for the benefit of those who would enlist in defense of the government. On that day nine Simsbury people volunteered for the service and volunteer subscriptions to the amount of eleven hundred dollars were distributed among them and their families. Until a draft became necessary in August 1863 the town frequently voted to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to each man who would enlist for the term of nine months. By the close of the war Simsbury had furnished two hundred of her choice young men to maintain the integrity of the Union.

If the historian can follow any thread through the maze of complex change occurring from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present time, it is the profound influence upon the life of the New England town which was brought about by the progress in transportation and communication. First the canals, then the railroads, and later the automobile truck carried the goods of industry to the uttermost corners of

the earth. The rapid expansion of the country in general and of industry in particular created great demand for labor and gave impetus to the influx of foreigners to work in our factories and share our prosperity. Today sixty-five per cent of the population of Connecticut is of foreign birth or the offspring of parents who were born overseas. These newcomers to our shores ventured into our country districts and have become a stable and hard-working element in our village life, although the process of their assimilation with the native Yankees has been slow and attended with some difficulties. Simsbury felt the influence of this movement as our large foreign population bears witness.

The country's rapid growth, in consequence of industrial expansion and the spread of transportation and communication, brought wealth to many of the first enterprising Yankee manufacturers and a group can be found in every town who profited and built up family fortunes, which enabled them to enjoy the advantages of higher education and travel. It also brought about another social effect, namely, eagerness of many a country lad to exchange the drudgery of the farm for the excitement and speculative opportunities for riches and fame elsewhere. Several of Simsbury's young men took part in this movement. Among them were two young friends, Amos R. Eno and John J. Phelps, who borrowed money to go to New York and engage in the dry goods business. Both were eminently successful and they and their families returned to the place of their birth in later years and by many benefactions demonstrated their public spirit and loyal affection for their home town.

In Simsbury, as in many other towns, the progress of the industrial and social enterprises which had occurred during the last part of the nineteenth century resulted in a breaking-up of the old unity founded on the agricultural life. One bit of concrete evidence that the social character of Simsbury has completely changed is seen in the simple fact that thirty-five

years ago almost everyone in our village knew everyone else by name; they attended the same schools, worshipped at the same churches and traded at the same stores. Today all is changed, and many who walk upon our streets are strangers to one another. The cinema palace, the theatre, the dance hall, and the automobile lead us into separate ways of life and have replaced the old-time neighborliness.

As the development of transportation enabled people to get about more easily, so the improvement in communication produced a greater interest in the world at large. One of the outstanding characteristics of modern Simsbury is the sudden increase in interest taken by our townspeople in education, as evidenced not only by the many recently erected and excellent public schools but by the private institutions, which have come to the town to take advantage of the excellent environment it affords.

With the advent of wealth and increased leisure for the enjoyment of life and education, came a growth in the public spirit of the citizens of the town. This found expression in such gifts as the Simsbury Free Library, the Eno Memorial Hall, the building of the central schools and the improvement of Hop Meadow cemetery. The interest of the townspeople in the affairs of their community is seen in the formation of many clubs, societies and lodges, among them the Simsbury Historical Society, the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Community Club of Simsbury, the Simsbury Club, the Lion's Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and many other active organizations.

At the close of the nineteenth century occurred the short-lived Spanish-American War. When on Saturday, April 23, 1898 President McKinley issued a call for one hundred and twenty-five thousand volunteers, three of Simsbury's townspeople responded. Early Monday morning Mr. George E. Pattison went to Hartford where he enlisted in Company K of the Connecticut National Guard. He was quickly followed

by Mr. Jonathan E. Eno who joined the same company. At that time Eno was under the age limit but, obtaining the consent of his parents, his enlistment was accepted. A third volunteer who was later rejected for physical disabilities accompanied them. The townspeople gathered at the old Casino on May third to speed the three volunteers on their way. They entrained the next day at Hartford for Camp Haven, Niantic, Conn., where Company K was sworn into the United States Army. Later on, in June, Mr. Dwight Brown of Simsbury joined the company.

Following a month and a half spent at Camp Burdette in Portland, Maine, Company K rejoined its regiment at Niantic and immediately thereafter entrained for Camp Alger, Va., whence it was to proceed to Porto Rico. The regiment stayed at Camp Alger for the duration of the War and suffered, in common with many of the southern camps, the ravages of typhoid fever. On September sixth a special train was sent home carrying many ill of the disease, among them Mr. Eno and Mr. Brown. Actively connected with the quartermaster's department, Mr. Pattison remained at Camp Alger until Company K was mustered out on October 31, 1898.

An outstanding event for Simsbury was the election of George Payne McLean, the grandson of Rev. Allen McLean, as Governor of Connecticut in 1900. One of his important acts was the calling of a constitutional convention to be held in 1902 for the purpose of reapportioning the representatives to the General Assembly. A situation had arisen whereby it was theoretically possible for twenty per cent of the people of Connecticut to elect a clear majority of the Assembly owing to the fact that each town, regardless of size, had two representatives. That he should have been opposed in this progressive reform by another Simsbury man, merely carried on the tradition of independence and forthrightness of opinion that characterized the early Simsbury fathers in their differences over the location of their meeting houses. This time,



SENATOR GEORGE P. MCLEAN 1857-1932.
Grandson of Rev. Allen McLean.



REV. ALLEN MCLEAN 1782-1861. From a
portrait owned by Mrs. George P. McLean.

however, the dispute was transferred to a new subject matter and a newer day. The representative from Simsbury to the convention was a rabid Democrat of the old school, Joseph L. Bartlett. He lived in Terry's Plain on a farm at the junction of the road leading down to the old Campbell Case place and throughout his life was active in politics and district school matters. In the Civil War he was known as a "copper-head" and in many matters took a decided stand with the opposition.

In this matter of reapportionment he sincerely felt that the old days were best and he determined to fight the new proposals to the last ditch. For two days he led a filibuster that caused Governor McLean and his colleagues considerable worry. Efforts were made to dissuade him from talking against the amendment. A telegram was sent to him saying that his wife was desperately ill and to come home immediately, but he would not budge. Another advice it is said, reached him that his barn was on fire but he retorted, "Let 'er burn!" and continued his filibuster. Finally undefeated he withdrew his opposition when a satisfactory compromise was reached.

Each delegate to the convention received a tree to be planted at home in honor of the occasion. A young oak tree was given to Mr. Bartlett and was planted by him and named "Constitution Oak." It stands in Terry's Plain at the east end of the road leading down to the Campbell Case farm now belonging to the Pattison estate.

After a term as Governor, Mr. McLean retired to his farm in Simsbury and his law practice but by 1910 he was elected United States Senator from Connecticut taking office in 1911. He served continuously as Senator throughout the trying years of the World War and voluntarily retired from public life at the conclusion of his third term in 1929. Having an unusual ability as an orator and statesman, he was highly regarded in Washington as a man far above ordinary politics. His advice was eagerly sought on public questions and his

carefully prepared utterances were listened to with respect and approval. His picture is reproduced side-by-side with the portrait of his distinguished grandfather, the Rev. Allen McLean opposite page 139.

Senator McLean was born Oct. 7, 1857 at the homestead of his father, Dudley B. McLean, which stood opposite the site where the present McLean residence built in 1896 now stands. Besides an honorary degree of Bachelor of Arts from Yale, he received the degree of Doctor of Laws from Trinity College. In the course of his political career he found time to create a large estate in the region of the Barndoors Hills consisting of several thousand acres of reserve with ponds, waterfalls, old farms and the like. At his death in 1932 by the terms of his will this large acreage was set aside under trustees as the McLean Game Refuge and opened to the public on July 17, 1933. A paragraph from the McLean will is worthy of quotation because of its revelation of the character of Simsbury's distinguished citizen:

I want the Game Refuge to be a place where trees can grow unmolested by choppers and trout and birds and other animal life can exist unmolested by hunters and fishermen, a place where some of the things God made may be seen by those who love them as I loved them and who may find in them the peace of mind and body that I have found.

The last public appearance of Senator McLean was characteristically on behalf of and before the townspeople of his beloved Simsbury. At the dedication of the Eno Memorial Hall on Decoration Day 1932, he shared the platform with another famous son of Simsbury, Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania, and spoke a few words reminiscent of his boyhood spent in this vicinity. Within exactly one week he passed away and was laid to rest in the Hop Meadow cemetery.

The latest event of great and enduring significance in modern history which the townspeople of Simsbury embraced

whole-heartedly was the World War of 1914-18, which the United States entered in the spring of 1917. Prior to our active participation, a state law established the Connecticut Home Guard, later the Connecticut State Guard, whose major activity was to give Connecticut people a sense of home security, to maintain law and order and prevent sabotage in industry by the Germans or other unfriendly interests. Throughout the whole countryside an exaggerated tension existed which seems quite preposterous to our sophisticated ears today. In Simsbury rumors were rife that the fuse plant was in danger of destruction and that the Heublein Tower on Talcott Mountain was a vantage point for signalling German U-boats in Long Island Sound. Another rumor had it that the tower secreted a gun emplacement for firing upon the Colt munitions factory in Hartford. Quite naturally the men of Simsbury as well as other towns flocked to join their local State Guard units. The company in Simsbury was officered by the Spanish-American War veterans, Jonathan E. Eno, as captain, and George E. Pattison, as first lieutenant. The second lieutenant was Henry E. Ellsworth. The company was thoroughly equipped and drilled and in it many a man who saw later service in Europe obtained his first military training.

Upon the entrance of America into the war and at the first call for volunteers, about a dozen men responded and when the selective service act went into effect many more were called to the colors. By the close of the war Simsbury had sent one hundred and eighty men and three nurses to the service. Of this number four men lost their lives.

One of Simsbury's most important contributions to the World War was the War Bureau. An office was established in the Simsbury Bank building and an efficient organization headed by Henry E. Ellsworth, Chairman, was set up to co-ordinate all the manifold activities of the Red Cross, soldiers' welfare, war gardens, census of materials and personnel, flotation of liberty loans, food and fuel administration, selective

service, the State Guard, and the many problems connected with the mustering-out and return of the boys from the front. A very active member of the directorate of the War Bureau was State Senator Alexander T. Pattison. His statewide prominence and distinguished abilities caused him to be chosen for the selective service draft board for this district. The entire files of this War Bureau have been placed in the safe-keeping of the Simsbury Free Library where they will be available for the use of future investigators and historians. Attached to a wall on the second story of the Library may be seen the so-called Honor Roll which contains the names of all those who saw service in the World War and their dates of enlistment.

The Ensign-Bickford Company, besides meeting the increased demands of the mining industry of America, produced fuse for England and Russia. Time-fuses for hand grenades were a specialty. Over forty-two million of these were completed, under rigid contract for the United States Government, so expeditiously and with such uniform quality and efficiency that the company received a citation letter from the War Department, which was one of less than a dozen written to all the firms in the country supplying war materials to the Army Ordnance Department.

During the war and the decade thereafter there ensued a rather abnormal period of prosperity in which the town shared. The census of 1930 gave the population of Simsbury as three thousand six hundred and twenty-four persons or an increase of six hundred and sixty-six during the decade. The physical appearance of the town underwent a change in the erection of many new buildings such as the Eno Memorial Hall, the Ensign Building where the Simsbury Bank and Trust Company and the telephone exchange are located, the Simsbury Electric Company office, the several new public and preparatory schools, the American Legion Hall, the Joseph Toy Recreation Building at the Ensign-Bickford plant and many

new residences. The town's change from the rural and provincial to a more urban and residential character is seen in the acquisition of the first regular town policeman, the adoption of new traffic regulation devices, the improving and oiling of almost all of the town roads, the adoption of voting machines at elections, the establishment of a fire department in cooperation with the Ensign-Bickford Company, the adoption of zoning regulations, and, most significantly, the closing of the district schools and the centralizing of the town's educational facilities. This last movement is important from an historical point of view. The influence of the "little red schoolhouse" had so left its mark on the growth and progress of this country that New England in general and Connecticut in particular had been aptly termed the "Schoolmistress of the Nation." However lamentable from a sentimental point of view the passing of the district school appears to be, nevertheless, it is unquestioned that the centralizing of educational facilities is a modern, progressive step in the best interests of our children. It is earnestly to be hoped, however, that the characteristics of independence and initiative fostered in our little rural schools may receive the same encouragement and stimulus as heretofore and not be lost in the shuffle of mass education in the larger central schools.

It is difficult indeed for the historian to do more than give a brief indication of a few of the forces at work in the community in these modern times. It is his duty to record facts, not to prophesy. The past history of Simsbury has been one of honor and glory in which we all have reason to feel a just pride. We can only hope that the history of our day will be worthy of those who have gone before and a source of pride to those who will come after.

¶ Appendix: a Miscellany of Modern Historical Facts.

THE historian of the future will interpret the social, political and economic trends of today by a study of the records and other evidence, which are being established by all of us today in all the things we do—our work, our play, our education, our religion, our businesses, our clubs. We ourselves are too close to our own lives and times to see their full significance. Rather than endeavor to analyze their meaning, it would seem wisest to present in topical form such evidence as is outstanding and to leave to future investigators the difficult matter of comprehending its importance. This Appendix is offered in this spirit as a reference source for certain interesting information. It is not presumed to be complete. If any organizations, enterprises, and other important and worthwhile projects of our day have not received the mention they deserve, the author and his committee regret the oversight. For future historical usefulness local groups should deposit basic information of this sort about themselves with the local Library or Historical Society for their files, and for the use of those engaged in projects similar to the publication of these historical notes.

CHURCHES

The first meeting house was erected by Thomas Barber in 1683 near the burying ground in Hopmeadow Street. The site was chosen by lot and the cost of the original building was thirty-three pounds, "the Towne Finding Nails." In 1696 the town voted to add a gallery on

the east side and one at each end and the walls were to be "ceiled." Prior to the erection of the first church the Rev. Samuel Stone supplied as minister, 1673-79, and he was followed by the Rev. Samuel Stow, 1682-85; Rev. Edward Thompson, 1687-91; Rev. Seth Shove, 1691-95; all of whom supplied. The first pastor and teacher of the "First Church of Christ in Simsbury," which was gathered and organized at that time, was the Rev. Dudley Woodbridge, who was ordained Nov. 10, 1697 and remained as pastor until his death August 3, 1710. The first deacons of the new church were Peter Buell and James Cornish. The second pastor of the church was Rev. Timothy Woodbridge 1712-42.

In 1716 the question arose as to the need of a larger meeting house and, although a few repairs and an addition were made, the matter finally came to a serious dispute culminating in the establishment by 1737 of the separate ecclesiastical societies of Wintonbury, Salmon Brook (Northwest), Turkey Hills (Northeast) and Simsbury (or First Society). In the next few years the various societies erected their own churches and settled their own separate ministers. The second Simsbury meeting house was then relocated on Drake's Hill, the present site, but its cost was borne entirely by the newly-formed First Ecclesiastical Society. The building voted in 1739 was fifty by forty feet, unpainted, unplastered, and generally plain. In 1743 it was ready for occupancy; it was plastered in 1752, repaired and improved in 1777 and painted for the first time in 1782. During the first year of occupancy of the new building the Rev. Samuel Hopkins supplied. He was the distinguished divine who subsequently became the celebrated father of the Hopkinsonian System of Divinity.

The following list of individuals supplied or were settled during the period of the second meeting house:

Rev. Samuel Hopkins (supplied)	1743
Rev. Gideon Mills (settled)	1744-55
Mr. John Searl (supplied)	1755-56
Rev. Benajah Roots (settled)	1757-72
Mr. Jonathan Murdock (supplied)	
Mr. Patten of Hartford (supplied)	
Mr. David Parsons Jr. of Amherst (supplied)	
Rev. Samuel Stebbins (settled)	1776-1806
Rev. Thomas Robbins and 8 others (supplied)	1806-08
Rev. Allen McLean (settled)	1809-61
Rev. Samuel T. Richards as Colleague (settled)	1850-58

At the close of the meeting house dissensions, the growing Anglican group in Scotland appealed for parish privileges and in 1743 built a church edifice. This St. Andrews Church was one of the oldest Episcopal churches in the colony. In 1750 the west portion of the First Society was set off as the West Simsbury Society and in 1759 the Rev. Gideon Mills left the First Society to settle as pastor of the West Simsbury Church.

In 1780 the First Society voted to raise money to provide a singing master to encourage public singing and the learning of psalm tunes. About this time one Oliver Brownson, a distinguished composer and teacher of sacred music, settled in town. He lived in the old house still standing opposite the High School from 1786 to 1805, and his celebrated book of hymns called "Select Harmony" was composed there and printed in Simsbury. He was very active in organizing the church music and choir.

The importance of the early ministers has been brought out from time to time in the preceding chapters of this book and some of their human characteristics illustrated, as typified by Parson Samuel Stebbins. The creating of separate parishes narrowed the political and social importance of the later ministers whose abilities had to be directed into different channels. The Rev. Allen McLean is the outstanding example of this new school. Working close to the people in his own society he threw all the weight of his distinguished personality into educational work. He founded the first Sunday School in town, preached earnestly on behalf of temperance, and encouraged a great revival of religious interest in Simsbury, which resulted in the building of the present third meeting house or church in 1830. In 1848 he became totally blind but continued as minister with the assistance of Rev. Samuel T. Richards as Colleague Pastor. The Rev. McLean was born in Vernon, Conn., in 1782, graduated from Yale in 1805 and on his death was buried in the Hop Meadow cemetery. He became the father of a distinguished family and his grandson, George Payne McLean, became Governor of Connecticut and United States Senator.

The new church built in 1830 at a cost of less than six thousand dollars was remodelled in 1865 on the interior at an additional cost of four thousand dollars. The high pulpit and galleries were lowered, the square pews and slips were removed and semi-circular slips substituted, so that every person faced the minister. A new organ loft and orchestra

with pulpit platform were erected and an organ purchased. The old front galleries were removed, the interior decorated and carpeted.

About 1850 a group called the Simsbury Parsonage Association built a parsonage house near the site of the first parsonage occupied by Rev. Dudley Woodbridge one hundred and fifty years earlier. By gift and particularly by purchase with funds presented by Amos R. Eno and Watson Wilcox, the parsonage was acquired by the First Society in 1868. Many individuals have made bequests to the Society and in order to secure these legacies the Legislature granted the church a charter of incorporation as the First Church of Christ in Simsbury.

The list of ministers since the death of the Rev. Allen McLean is as follows:

Rev. Oliver S. Taylor (settled)	1859-65
Rev. N. A. Prince (settled)	1866-69
Rev. J. L. Tomlinson (settled)	1871-78
Rev. W. D. McFarland (settled)	1878-80
Rev. C. P. Osborne (settled)	1880-81
Rev. L. L. Tomblen (settled)	1881-84
Rev. A. L. Clark (settled)	1885-87
Rev. Horace Winslow (supplied)	1887-90
Rev. Charles E. Stowe (settled)	1890-99
Rev. Oliver H. Bronson (settled)	1899-1907
Rev. Clayton W. Potter (settled)	1907-10
Rev. Hugh McCallum (settled)	1910-19
Rev. David Jack (settled)	1920-25
Rev. E. Knox Mitchell (settled)	1926

The membership of the original church in 1697 was forty-two persons and in 1935 there were three hundred and seventy members. At the present time besides the regular church services and the Sunday School there are Senior and Junior Choirs, a Men's Club, Women's Class, Young People's Society, Ladies' Guild, Alethea Club, Hi-Y Boys' Club, Young People's Society, and High School Girls' Club.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodists began holding services in Simsbury about the year 1800 in the present J. H. Leonard house just west of the residence of Oliver D. Tuller in West Simsbury. In fact the Leonard house is said to have been built in 1777 for one of the Tullers and was once occupied

by the Rev. Curtiss Goddard, then called "Priest Goddard," a Methodist preacher of the "old time." The Rev. Goddard, who was engaged at a gristmill in Farms Village, as it was then called, was paid seventy-five dollars a year to conduct Sabbath services. During that early period these were held in schoolhouses and at the homes of such people as Thomas Vining in Hop Meadow and Amos Tuller, who lived near Tuller's Mills on Hop Brook. These two persons with Asaph Tuller, the great-grandfather of Oliver D. Tuller, were among the early local Methodists. The first official "Quarterly Meeting," as it was called, was held in the schoolhouse at Farms Village (now West Simsbury) in 1818.

During the pastorate of Rev. William C. Hoyt in 1840 land on Hopmeadow Street (the site of the present church) was deeded to the Methodist Trustees by Moses and Bildad Ensign, the former being the grandfather of Joseph R. Ensign, Mrs. Robert Darling and Mrs. W. Inglis Morse. On this land a large wooden church was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. The Rev. Joseph Toy, who by this time was associated with the fuse factory in East Weatogue and was very active in preaching the Methodist gospel throughout this district, assumed the pastorate during the year 1846.

In 1882 under the Rev. George B. Dusinberre the church was remodelled at an outlay of four thousand dollars and in this work Mr. Jeffrey O. Phelps, the father of Mrs. Aaron Eno, Mrs. James K. Crofut and Mrs. Joseph R. Ensign, contributed valuable time and money. The present native sandstone edifice was built in 1909 during the pastorate of Rev. Warren F. Sheldon being a generous gift of Ralph Hart Ensign. The church has received many valuable gifts and legacies. A parsonage house was erected in 1858 on Hopmeadow Street where it now stands just south of the present Community Club.

Mention might be appropriately made at this point of Ralph Hart Ensign who did so much for the Methodist Church. Born of old and honorable colonial stock on Nov. 3, 1834, in a house which stood on the west side of Hopmeadow Street on the site of the present Maple Tree Inn, he was educated in the Hop Meadow School, the Connecticut Literary Institution at Suffield and Wilbraham Academy. In 1863 he entered the firm of his father-in-law, Toy, Bickford & Company and was admitted to partnership in 1870. In 1887 he became managing partner of the successful firm of Ensign-Bickford & Company and the

first president of The Ensign-Bickford Company in 1907. Until his death on March 22, 1917 he remained at the head of his company.

Besides his business in Simsbury, throughout his long and tranquil life he found opportunities to serve as director of the Hartford National Bank, the Hartford *Ætna* Bank, the National Fire Insurance Company, the Dime Savings Bank and as President of the Hartford County Mutual Fire Insurance Co. All these positions were ones of great trust and testify to the high business esteem in which he was held. Personally quiet, genial and retiring, his many benefactions to the town in the way of good roads, schools and the Methodist Church endear him forever to his birthplace.

The Methodist Church is in the New Haven district of the New York-East Conference. It has an enrolled membership of three hundred and seventy-two representing about two hundred families, with a parish constituency of four hundred fifty persons. The official governing group consists of nine trustees presided over by Mr. Robert Darling and there are twenty-two stewards. In addition to the regular Sabbath services and Sunday School there are the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the M. and W. Society embracing in its membership about one hundred and twenty-five men and women carrying on charitable, missionary and dramatic activities. The present pastor is Rev. L. H. Dorchester, D.D.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Reference has been made to the group of Anglicans who organized the early St. Andrew's Church in Scotland Parish in 1740 and 1743. The Rev. William Gibbs, who was sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, was the first rector and his church stood at the northerly side of the Scotland burying ground. He died in 1777, his end being hastened by ill health and melancholia brought about by barbarous treatment he received for his refusal to pay taxes laid for the support of the Congregational Church. For this refusal he was arrested, thrown over a horse, bound hand and foot to the animal, and thus brutally conveyed to the Hartford jail. By 1759 Roger Viets of Simsbury, recently graduated from Yale, was assisting Rev. Gibbs and in 1763 he became rector upon his return from England where he was ordained. During the Revolution he was a Loyalist and, as such, carefully watched. At one time he was imprisoned

in Hartford jail. In 1787 he removed to Digby, Nova Scotia and was rector there until his death in 1811. St. Andrew's Church is still located near its original site in North Bloomfield. At one time an attempt was made to remove it with its congregation to Tariffville. This proposition met with much opposition and it was finally agreed by the individuals concerned to form a new parish under the name of "Trinity Church Parish, Tariffville." Action to this effect was taken on June 29th, 1848, and the parish was received into the Episcopal communion by the Right Rev. Thomas Church Brownell, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Connecticut.

Services were first held in the Presbyterian house of worship which at that time, owing to economic conditions, was closed. In the year 1856 Trinity Parish purchased the property by paying the debts which encumbered it. The disastrous fire, which destroyed the greater part of the village on June 10th, 1867, included the church building in its toll. Services were then held in the Mitchelson Hall, the birthplace of the parish. In the year 1871 ground was broken for the new church, and in the year 1872 the building, which cost twenty-two thousand dollars, was consecrated by Bishop Williams and is still in use.

The late George Mitchelson left in trust a large sum of money for the erection of a parish house, which was dedicated by the Right Rev. Frederick Budlong on November 11, 1934.

The present rector of the parish is the Rev. Frederic L. Lorentzen.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES

As early as October 1836 the Rev. Peter Walsh came to Tariffville and found twenty-four Catholics. These were placed under the jurisdiction of the Rev. Luke Daly of New Britain, who built a church on Mountain Road, Tariffville, in 1850. This early church was destroyed by fire in 1876. At that time the mission of Tariffville was under the jurisdiction of St. Patrick's, Collinsville, whose Father Sheriden secured a more suitable site and erected the second St. Bernard's Church. In 1881 the mission was made an independent parish and the Rev. John Quinn named first pastor. Father Quinn died in 1890 and was succeeded by Rev. James Walsh. In 1892 a fire destroyed the church but another site was secured, the cornerstone of the present church laid that year

and the edifice completed in 1895. The Rev. Michael C. Cray was appointed pastor in 1895 but retired in 1902 and was succeeded by Rev. Eugene O'Connell who built the present St. Mary's Church in Simsbury. He died in 1910. There then followed: Rev. Edward Broderick, 1910; Rev. James Q. Dolan, 1911-24; Rev. Jeremiah J. Broderick, 1924-32; Rev. James J. McCormick, 1932-35. The present pastor is Rev. James H. Grady.

The parish of St. Bernard's numbers at present nine hundred souls composed chiefly of Lithuanian-Americans and Polish-Americans. It embraces the towns of Tariffville, Hartland, East Granby and Granby.

The Catholics living within the limits of the present St. Mary's were originally members of St. Bernard's, Tariffville. From 1836 to 1902 their fortunes followed those of the mother-church. In 1902 the Rev. Richard Carroll bought land for the erection of a mission church in Simsbury. Prior to its completion masses were celebrated in the former Town Hall and the old Casino.

The cornerstone of the Immaculate Conception Church, now popularly called St. Mary's, was laid on Sept. 27, 1903, during the pastorate of Rev. Eugene O'Connell. The presence of nearly all the Protestant clergymen of the place and a goodly sprinkling of non-Catholics was a pleasing feature of the ceremony. At that time Father Maurice F. McAuliffe, now the Bishop at Hartford, assisted in the service.

After Rev. James Q. Dolan secured a priest's house and a prospective sight for a new church, St. Mary's was raised to the dignity of a parish on June 17, 1921. The Rev. John J. Keane was appointed pastor until 1925 when he was succeeded by Rev. Matthew Judge. Upon the latter's promotion to the Sacred Heart Church in Waterbury the present pastor, Rev. Henry M. Callahan, became the local Catholic leader.

BAPTIST CHURCH

A Baptist Church in Tariffville was organized May 31, 1833 with a membership of thirteen. In 1838 Rev. Charles Willet was ordained the first pastor. The first church was erected in 1843 and burned down in 1876. A new church was built but as years passed the church declined in membership and is maintained no longer.

CEMETERIES

The usual colonial custom in the earliest days seemed to be the burying of the dead on town-owned land usually adjoining the meeting house and invariably, if possible, on the summit of a hill. The first burying ground in Hop Meadow was probably somewhere on top of the present cemetery hill, as there is a town record of a vote in 1688 to remove it lower down the hill. At the same time two acres of land were set aside for the purpose and the grounds were to be improved both for "a training and burying place". The oldest stones that are left in the cemetery today are found in the lower part and are made of the native sandstone common to this region. The earliest one is that of Mercy Buell, the wife of Peter Buell who came from Windsor about 1667 and received a houselot in Hop Meadow. The inscription is typical and quaint:

HERE LYETH
THE BODY OF
MERCY BUEL: Y WIFE
OF PETER BUEL WHO
DEPARTED THIS LIFE: ON
JULY THE 4th 1688: AGED 22
YEARS

*Though Mercyes dead & buried
Yet let us ever mind
let God be just all him who trust
shall surely mercy find;*

The second oldest stone is that of John Drake, an original settler, who lived near the Belden residence and gave his name to Drake's Hill, where the Congregational Church now stands, and to Drake's Brook, which flows out of Mrs. Wood's pond just north of the old Town Hall. Within a few feet of these two stones are the graves of the first two pastors, Dudley and Timothy Woodbridge.

In the early days the town controlled the burying grounds and when the ecclesiastical societies were formed they took over the care of them. Later by law the school societies had charge of them. The graves at that time were all mounded, the headstones were seldom reset or cared for, the grass grew and was left for the cattle that pastured there. Bushes and briars grew rankly. About 1852, under the leadership of

Watson Wilcox, a subscription paper was circulated and twenty-five hundred dollars raised towards the erection of an enclosing stone wall on the sides of the old burying ground and an iron fence in front. At the same time the bushes and briars were grubbed out and an association organized and incorporated in 1853 under the name of the "Simsbury Cemetery Association". The town and the various school and ecclesiastical societies surrendered to this group the land and the complete management of the cemetery.

Other than keeping the land free from bushes little further was done towards beautifying the cemetery until 1896. It was realized by a few that a beautiful cemetery, occupying a conspicuous position in the very heart of the town, could be an attractive asset to the town's appearance as well as serving a purely utilitarian purpose. Under the leadership of Lemuel S. Ellsworth, who was put at the head of the Cemetery Association in that year, a systematic attempt was made to landscape the grounds. Commencing slowly, because there were many who resented the thought that the sacred burial ground of their ancestors should be tampered with in any way, a small corner of the cemetery was beautified by levelling the mounds, which permitted the easier cultivation and mowing of a fine, green lawn. After a time various people warmed to the project and gifts came in to help the cause. Mr. Amos R. Eno gave six thousand dollars and Miss Adelaide Wilcox gave twelve thousand dollars and other donations were made by sundry individuals. A Mr. Wirth, Superintendent of Parks in Hartford, was called in to complete the landscaping of our cemetery which is now one of the loveliest and best kept in the state.

On June 27, 1923 the present fence and memorial gateway were dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of the townspeople and veterans of the World War. Built by the heirs of Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth and his wife, Ann Jane Toy, the memorial was designed as a tribute to those Simsbury people who took part in the Civil and World Wars. The two bronze tablets designed and modelled by Mr. Frank F. Ziegler read as follows: "Erected to the memory and honor of those citizens of Simsbury who by sacrifice and service during the Civil War helped to maintain the integrity of the Union 1861-1865" and "Erected to the memory and honor of those citizens of Simsbury who, steadfast in their conception of right, faithful in their performance of duty and unselfish in their devotion to country, served

the cause of justice and humanity in the World War 1914-1918. Given by Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth and his wife, Ann Jane Toy Ellsworth, A. D. 1922". The wording of these tablets was carefully scrutinized and approved by the late Dr. Hubert G. Buehler, the famed Headmaster of the Hotchkiss School. The fence and gateways were designed by Mr. Lionel Moses of the firm of McKim, Meade & White under the supervision of Mr. W. Frank Purdy, Director of the School of American Sculpture. The bronze tablets and the eagles, which were modeled by Mr. Edwin E. Codman, were produced by the Gorham Company. The red sandstone was furnished from A. J. Ketchin & Sons' quarry and the granite came from Branford, Conn.

The cemetery has grown by many successive additions. The upper half of the hill was given by Amos R. Eno, and the northwest section by Amos F. Eno. In 1929 an additional twenty-five acres westerly of St. Mary's Church were purchased from George C. Eno and presented to the Cemetery Association by several prominent citizens at a cost of thirty thousand dollars.

The present officers of the Simsbury Cemetery Association are Joseph R. Ensign, Pres.; Newell St. John, Vice Pres.; George E. Patterson, Sec'y; Simsbury Bank & Trust Co., Treas.; Elbert E. Potter, Sup't; C. A. Buerman, Auditor. The directors are Joseph R. Ensign and Elbert E. Potter.

There are two adjoining cemeteries in Tariffville, one of which is devoted to Catholic burials and the other to Protestant. The Catholic burial ground serves for both Simsbury and the parish of St. Bernard's and it is always well maintained. The Protestant cemetery only recently has been actively cared for, and this largely through the efforts of Mrs. A. E. Schultz of Simsbury. The burying ground at St. Andrews in Scotland (formerly a part of Ancient Simsbury) is very old and said to contain the grave of an Indian, one of the few to ever receive interment in a Protestant cemetery.

Another cemetery is located at Bushy Hill in the southwest section of the town. Although it is not as old as the others, yet it contains the burial place of many descendants of the old settlers. In 1907 through the efforts of the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the D. A. R. the cemetery was landscaped. The old iron fence taken from the Hop Meadow Cemetery in 1922 was placed around it. There are burial grounds in East Granby, Granby and Canton of considerable antiquity and interest.

SCHOOLS

In modern times the public school was at first confined to so-called common or grammar schools located in different school districts of which there were twelve: Hop Meadow, Center, Weatogue, Meadow Plain, East Weatogue, Terry's Plain, Tariffville, Westover Plain, Union, New, Farms, and Bushy Hill. The largest and most important of these was, of course, the Hop Meadow School. The location of the first two Hop Meadow schools has already been noted. The next school site was north of the present residence lot of Mrs. George C. Eno and the school building was moved there from its former site near the cemetery. Until the Simsbury Free Library was constructed, the village library association had its quarters in the upper story of the school building. The building was moved in 1891 and is now in use as a garage on the property of Mr. Robert Kerr. The lower story, made of hewn timbers, is the original part built in 1800. The upper story, added afterwards, is no longer present. The building which was constructed in its stead in 1891 is now across Hopmeadow Street from its original location and serves as an automobile repair shop. A view of the school taken on its original site may be seen on page 105. By the fall of 1913 the new Central Grammar School, a large and commodious institution built of native sandstone, was completed on the hill behind the present High School. The Center District and Hop Meadow pupils were sent to this school and by 1930 all but one of the outlying district schools—the "little red schoolhouses" of our ancestors—were closed and bus transportation provided at town expense. The last of the rural schools, the one at West Simsbury in the Farms District, was closed in June 1932.

In 1902 it was thought desirable to institute a school of higher grade and a committee of citizens recommended in 1903 the use of the third story of the McLean Seminary for the purpose, which was voted by the town. After a few years the town voted to erect a stone building to be called the Simsbury High School and in 1907 this was done. A great share of the cost of the High School was borne by the late Horace Belden, and the late Ralph H. Ensign contributed liberally towards the erection of the Grammar School. In recent years additions have been made to both schools to provide increased facilities, including a fine gymnasium in connection with the High School.

In Tariffville a beautiful new, brick, grammar school was built in 1925 and the demand for educational facilities closer to the populous tenement district of the Ensign-Bickford Company factory resulted in the erection of a grammar school in the Hazel Meadow locality in 1927. With the aid of generous citizens the town was able to build these two schools without placing a tremendous burden upon the average taxpayer.

The fine public schools in Simsbury cannot be discussed without reference to Horace Belden. A grandson of a prominent Hartford business man, Thomas Belden, and son of Horace Belden, who used to operate the old Belden Distillery and built the familiar brownstone home in 1853 south of the Congregational Church, Mr. Belden devoted his life to his family interests and many educational and charitable pursuits. The distillery, which his father had operated, he closed down and never reopened. The Tariffville Lace Company, in which he was a large stockholder, consumed much of his time and energy. Through his influence every effort was made to maintain industrial activity in the town and much care was expended on the many tenements which housed its workers and others. The Simsbury Water Company was one of his pet enterprises, and to Horace Belden the people of Simsbury owe the fact that they had a good community water supply as early as 1872. He was very active in the Congregational Church and gave not only the memorial window in the chapel but a fund of twenty-five thousand dollars and other untold benefactions.

The major interest which Mr. Belden had was in the town schools. The original High School cost about fifty-five thousand dollars of which amount Mr. Belden put up forty thousand dollars. In the erection of the grammar schools he was also a generous contributor. At his death on October 16, 1931, he left to the town in trust the sum of one hundred thousand dollars "to be devoted and expended by it in making good roads within the limits of said town and in repairing the same." The three trustees of this fund appointed by the town were First Selectman O. Phelps Case, Arthur E. Lathrop and The Simsbury Bank & Trust Company.

The precursor of the High School and to a greater extent of the finishing or preparatory school of today was the "select" school of the nineteenth century which later became the academy or seminary of the "gay nineties." Dr. Benjamin Farnham, doctor, lawyer, minister,

Town Clerk, Judge of Probate and publisher of a book on prophecies, conducted a school in the residence now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Crofut just north of the Methodist Church. A very well-known school in its day was the one conducted by Allen McLean, the son of the Rev. Mr. McLean, and called the Simsbury Select School. In 1860, his pupils gave a program, which has come down to us, called an "Exhibition at the Town Hall." The chief exercises participated in by the pupils were an alternating series of dialogues and songs having strangely old-fashioned titles.

In 1879 Mr. John B. McLean established the Simsbury Academy, a boarding and day school for boys and girls. At first its exercises were held in the upper story of the Hop Meadow School. It then removed to a building located just westerly of the present Welden Building. Later he built a new school called the McLean Seminary, which was opened in 1888 and named in honor of the Rev. Allen McLean, who had taken such a great interest in town educational affairs during his long pastorate. At the laying of the cornerstone of this building Dr. Lucius I. Barber, the noted historian of Simsbury, delivered an address relative to, and appropriately entitled, "The Training Ground," upon the northern end of which the new seminary was significantly erected. In a very few years the seminary ceased to operate and Mr. McLean took up educational work on behalf of the town, becoming a much beloved and respected Superintendent of Schools in Simsbury until his death.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

The first of the preparatory schools which have brought honor to our town is the Westminster School. Reflecting the influence of the great English public schools and in particular the inspiration of the ancient Uppingham School in Rutland, England, Westminster was founded in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. in 1888 by William Lee Cushing and moved to Simsbury in 1900. The school property occupies practically the whole of Williams Hill just west of the so-called "Dugway" and overlooking the Farmington River and Hop Meadow. On the two hundred acres of land are located some twenty buildings including dormitories, masters' cottages, a chapel, infirmary, gymnasium and swimming pool. There are forty acres of athletic field and much delightful wooded land. Following the death of Mr. Cushing, the school

was headed by Lemuel G. Pettee of Simsbury until it was acquired in 1923 by Mr. Raymond Richards McOrmond, formerly of the Choate School in Wallingford, Conn. All three of its headmasters have been graduates of Yale University, and that institution has been favored in the number of Westminster graduates that have gone there. In 1935 the school was incorporated on a non-profit-making basis and trusteeed under the chairmanship of Mr. Robert Darling of this town.

The enrollment of the school at Dobbs Ferry in 1888 totalled twenty-one boys. It grew steadily until in 1890 the number reached seventy-four, which was probably the enrollment when it came to Simsbury. The present number is one hundred and ten pupils. There are six forms or classes in preparation for college, the junior group, ranging in age from twelve to fourteen years, having their own masters and coaches. The upper school has about eighty boys.

THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL

This school was started by Miss Ethel Walker in the autumn of 1911 at Lakewood, N. J. where it remained for six years. Growing in this space of time from ten boarding pupils to forty-five, it became necessary either to build a large institution at Lakewood or go elsewhere. At the suggestion of a loyal Simsbury woman, Mrs. Ellwood Hendrick, the school was moved to Simsbury in 1917. The old estates of Stuart and Norman Dodge were purchased and two years later the Walter Dodge property was acquired, being a gift to the school by Mr. and Mrs. George Alfred Cluett of Troy, N. Y., as a memorial to their daughter, who died during the influenza epidemic of 1919. By successive additions, some of which were gifts of friends and alumnae of the school, an infirmary, a gymnasium, an indoor riding ring, various class rooms and a study hall were acquired.

In 1933 two separate conflagrations occurred which destroyed both the Stuart Dodge house and the huge, wooden, Norman Dodge house, familiarly known as "Four Corners." Fortunately these two catastrophes were attended with no loss of life or injury to any person. The present modern, fire-proof, and commodious Beaver Brook Hall was immediately erected on the site of the Stuart Dodge house. It accommodates the headmistress and approximately one hundred and twenty-five girls, besides containing a library, infirmary, reception rooms, office,

dining room and kitchen, music room, and locker rooms. The Walter Dodge house, now known as Cluett House, is equipped as a dormitory for the younger girls. The total number of pupils when the school opened in Simsbury was sixty-five. Today the enrollment is one hundred and forty-two. From 1911 to 1921 Miss Ethel Walker (now the wife of Dr. E. Terry Smith) was headmistress and following her in 1921-22 came her sister, Mrs. Charles Andrews. Since that time the position has been held by Miss Jessie Hewitt. All three of the headmistresses have been graduates of Bryn Mawr College.

SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY

During the winter of 1872 there was organized among the townspeople a social and literary club. In conjunction with the previously formed "Simsbury Book Club," which owned a library of one hundred and twenty-five books, a sum of money was raised towards the establishing of a fixed library in Simsbury. Upon presenting the subscription paper to Mr. Amos R. Eno, with the thought that he might contribute fifty dollars, great was the surprise when he returned the paper with three thousand dollars—one half to be used for books and the other to provide for future growth. A board of trustees was created and the upper story of the old Hop Meadow schoolhouse secured as a library room and opened Sept. 23, 1874 as the Simsbury Free Library.

In 1887 Mr. Eno placed in the hands of a building committee, selected from the board of trustees and consisting of R. H. Ensign, W. H. Whitehead and J. B. McLean, the sum of ten thousand dollars for the erection of an appropriate edifice. Thus there was soon erected the dignified and appropriate colonial style Library which now stands just south of the cemetery on Hopmeadow Street. The architect was M. H. Hapgood of Hartford. In 1890 Mr. Eno gave further funds to the Library in a letter which is so beautifully expressive not only of the character of its author but also of his love for his home town that it is worthy of reproduction in full:

To the Trustees of the Simsbury Free Library.

Gentlemen,—This gift is due to the Town of Simsbury from me. Every one owes something to his birthplace, and his acknowledgment of the same will be more or less emphasized from the advantages received and the ability to respond.

It was my fortune to be born here among you, and if it were possible, I do not know that I could have selected a birthplace more to my advantage. When one comes into the world he is in the midst of surroundings which operate more or less in forming his character. If he is surrounded by luxury and ostentation, these will be likely to weaken and enervate him. If he is subjected to deprivation and trials, these will form in him a character which will enable him to weather the storms of life and to make his way in the world.

The boy who goes barefooted in youth seldom goes barefooted in old age. The frozen dew that tingles his feet as he winds his way to the pasture in the autumn morning will stir his blood, but will never vitiate it.

We boys of old Simsbury who have made, or will make our mark in the world, all know that self-denial begets strength, and that he who has a high aim in life must labor to attain it. We had enough to do in our boyhood and no time for mischief, and that was to us a great gain. Our four annual holidays, Election, General Training, Thanksgiving, and the Fourth of July, were red-letter days in those times. If we had any spare time there was always the bush-pasture challenging us to the field, but no murderous football to put us in limbo.

The influences that surrounded my youth were owing to the excellent character of the people of this town. They were sober, God-fearing, scrupulously honest, frugal, economical, and industrious. What would you have more?

One of my earliest instructors was a man whom to know was to love. I shall never forget his kindly face and pleasant manners. I allude to the late Moses Ensign, Esq.

My last teacher was a graduate of Amherst College, and I took my degree figuratively in the Academy or Studio about twenty by thirty feet, which I think may now be seen standing opposite Mr. Bestor McLean's barn. There were about thirty graduates, and if you will look at the Studio you will see how nicely we were packed, with the box-stove in the center.

The school was presided over by the Rev. Allan McLean of blessed memory, who was revered and loved by every one that knew him. His influence for good will be felt in Simsbury for many generations. By these few glimpses one can see how a young man subject to such influences had an essential advantage over others who had been brought up in luxury. I am indebted for these to the place of my birth, but the greatest boon that Simsbury has bestowed on me is the gift of one of its daughters, who for more than forty years was my inspiration and my joy. Blessed be the daughters of our dear old town!

To you, Gentlemen, Trustees, I wish to say one word and that is all. Trusteeships involve some responsibility, and I think I have chosen well in the interests of the inhabitants of Simsbury in naming you as Trustees in their behalf.

I enclose a deed of the Library property, and also a check for \$5,000 (five thousand dollars), \$500 (five hundred) of which, by the advice of your president and Professor McLean, is to be used as soon as convenient for the purchase of books, and the balance, \$4,500 (four thousand five hundred dol-

lars), to be added to the fund already established for that purpose, making \$6,000 (six thousand dollars) to be put at interest for the purchase of books. The \$5,000 above mentioned, with the \$3,000 given heretofore and with the land valued at \$2,000 and the \$10,000 which you have so judiciously expended in erecting the beautiful building, make a total of \$20,000.

Tusting that under your wise management the Library will prosper and be a blessing to the town, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Amos R. Eno.

New York, Jan. 28, 1890.

The Library also received the Amos F. Eno fund of about twenty-two thousand dollars, the income from which is devoted to maintenance, and Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood gave about eighteen thousand dollars for the addition of a book room. She also gave furnishings in the way of paintings and old furniture. The present trustees are: Mrs. J. K. Crofut, Mr. R. E. Darling, Mr. H. E. Ellsworth, Mr. W. P. Eno, Mr. J. R. Ensign, Mr. Arthur Pomeroy, Mr. C. D. Thompson, Mrs. M. S. Tousignant and Mr. J. R. Whitehead. The late George C. Eno was the last of the original trustees. The officers are: H. E. Ellsworth, Pres.; C. D. Thompson, Vice Pres. and Supervising Trustee; J. R. Whitehead, Sec'y.; The Simsbury Bank & Trust Co., Treas.; and Miss Julia E. Pattison, Librarian.

SIMSBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The idea of the Simsbury Historical Society was conceived by Dr. Lucius I. Barber, who devoted so many years of his life to preparing his celebrated "A Record and Documentary History of Simsbury." His wife, Mrs. Abbie Sexton Barber, bore this idea in mind and in 1910 at her death left three hundred dollars and furniture and documents belonging to her husband and his father, Calvin Barber, to the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the D. A. R. on condition that they take steps to form an historical society. Accordingly a meeting of interested townspeople was held on March 23, 1911 and the project approved. In December a constitution and by-laws were adopted and the first officers elected; namely, Mrs. J. K. Crofut, Pres.; Mr. J. R. Ensign, Vice Pres.; Mrs. G. C. Eno, Sec'y.; Mr. H. E. Ellsworth, Treas.; and Miss Mary Humphrey, Historian. There were fifteen members present at the first meeting and today the membership totals one hun-

dred and ten. Dues are nominal and used chiefly to pay expenses of light and heat and for keeping the rooms open for display.

Originally various objects presented to the Society were stored in the attics of Mrs. Crofut's and Mrs. Eno's homes. In 1919 the Trustees of the Simsbury Free Library gave permission for them to be stored in the upper rooms of the Library, where in 1925 they were arranged, catalogued, and placed on public display. When the Eno Memorial Hall was erected in 1932, two rooms on the second floor were set aside for the use of the Society. In them their complete collection is housed and open to public display every Saturday afternoon. Already the rooms are overcrowded with objects and, as public interest increases and further things of historic interest are presented, steps will have to be taken to provide additional space. The Society hopes that all those who care to entrust to their safe-keeping objects of historic interest, especially those items associated with Simsbury, will do so in order that future generations of townspeople may have a visual record of their past.

The present directors are: Mr. J. K. Brandon, Mrs. Robert Darling, Mr. H. E. Ellsworth, Mr. L. E. Humphrey, Mrs. J. J. Johnstone, Mr. C. R. Seymour, Miss L. W. Smith and Mrs. O. D. Tuller. Officers are: Mrs. J. K. Crofut, Pres.; Mr. J. R. Ensign, First Vice Pres.; Miss J. E. Pattison, Second Vice Pres.; Mrs. G. C. Eno, recording Sec'y.; Mrs. G. E. Pattison, Treas.; Mrs. A. J. Holcomb, Corresponding Sec'y.; and Mr. J. E. Ellsworth, Historian.

SIMSBURY VISITING NURSING ASSOCIATION

Through the efforts of Dr. Josiah Bridge, at that time on the faculty of the Westminster School but now on the faculty of the Ethel Walker School, the Simsbury Visiting Nursing Association was organized at his home, April 21, 1908. It was the wish of Dr. Bridge that Simsbury should become active in home nursing and be in the forefront in matters of social welfare. The Association was among the earliest formed in Connecticut of which there are now well over a hundred in number.

A mass meeting was held at the Casino on May 14, 1908 with Ex-Governor McLean presiding. The townspeople were acquainted with the purposes of the Association, which were first, the care of the sick

in the homes of the community by daily visits of the nurse and second, the education of the townspeople in the prevention of illness. The first president was Mrs. J. R. Ensign, who has held the office since its inception. The first Visiting Nurse was Clara Finnerty, long a well-known and capable figure in our town. Upon her resignation in 1925, Maria A. Knapp was secured, who is still doing valuable work in nursing and social welfare. Were the activities of the Association to be dispensed with today, the town would be hard put to solve the many pressing problems that would speedily devolve upon it. The Association deserves the active support of all the townspeople. The present officers are: Mrs. J. R. Ensign, Pres.; Mrs. A. E. Schultz, Vice Pres.; Mrs. H. E. Ellsworth, Sec'y.; and Mrs. Robert Darling, Treas.

THE CASINO

In the latter part of the nineteenth century a need arose for a social club and hall. Under the leadership of Mr. Joseph R. Ensign funds were raised and a stock company formed, called the Simsbury Casino Co., with a capitalization of twelve thousand dollars. Of this amount nine thousand dollars were spent on a building. In exchange for stock, land to the value of three thousand dollars was given by J. O. Phelps to provide the building lot, which was located just north of the residence of the late Alexander T. Pattison. The architect was Melvin H. Hapgood and the builder Thomas Hamilton. The building, which was erected in 1896, was intended to be used as a social club. There was an assembly hall seating from three to four hundred people, a banquet hall and kitchen and pool tables. Tennis courts were located outside in the rear. The original purpose did not hold for long and until the Casino was torn down to make way for the Eno Memorial Hall in 1931 it was used for plays, cinemas, town celebrations, public meetings, banquets and the like. At one period it was used as headquarters for the Foresters and Woodmen.

One of the most stirring uses to which the Casino was ever put was when the great influenza epidemic occurred in November 1918. The visiting nurse and volunteers among the local women sequestered all known cases in the building and used it for twenty days as an emergency hospital. About fifty-two cases were taken care of and there were nine deaths.

COMMUNITY CLUB

During the declining years of the Casino the same factors were at work within the town that were the original inspiration for its founding—the need for a recreational center for the people of Simsbury and in particular a comfortable, homelike place, where all the young people could gather for dancing, bowling, cards and other club pleasures. Accordingly in 1920 Mrs. Annie Ellsworth Schultz purchased the former Horace W. Robbins property and home, just north of the Methodist Parsonage on Hopmeadow Street, and in 1922 founded the Simsbury Community Club. The property is held in trust by the Simsbury Bank & Trust Co. and the club is managed by a board of governors. Membership fees were made as low as one dollar a month. Most of the operating expenses of the club, therefore, are met by sustaining or contributing memberships. Meals are served to guests and transients and a few rooms are available for rental to regular boarders. A bowling alley, pool tables and a tennis court are added attractions. Present membership is approximately two hundred and seventy-five. The enterprise is a genuine community affair run by the townspeople for their own benefit and, as such, is deserving of more widespread support.

ENO MEMORIAL HALL

Formerly several buildings served the town for business, recreational and cultural activities: The Town Hall served for town meetings and elections; the Probate Office, in the rear of the H. E. Ellsworth houselot, served as a hall of records and a local court; the old Casino served for social gatherings, a local cinema and theatre; the Library served to house the Historical Society; and the D. A. R. met in private homes. There existed consequently a crying need for a central community hall. During her lifetime Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood consulted with various citizens of the town about the matter and at her death in 1930 her will carried provisions for its erection. A sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars was bequeathed to the town for the erection of a community hall as a memorial to her parents, Amos Richards Eno and Lucy Jane Phelps. The building was to be "constructed of red brick with white trimmings in the style of architecture generally known as *Colonial* and to have a cupola or tower containing a clock." It was Mrs. Wood's preference that Roy



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE HORACE BELDEN.
Built 1853.



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE SENATOR GEORGE P.
MCLEAN. *Built 1896.*



RESIDENCE OF THE LATE ANTOINETTE ENO
WOOD. *Built 1822 by Elisha Phelps.*



FORMER HORACE W. ROBBINS HOME NOW THE
COMMUNITY CLUB OF SIMSBURY. *Built 1870*
by G. Dwight Phelps.

FOUR REPRESENTATIVE SIMSBURY HOMES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

D. Bassette of Hartford be engaged as architect. A further sum of seventy-five thousand dollars was left in trust with the Hartford National Bank & Trust Co., the income from which was to maintain the building in good repair. Accordingly a building committee constructed and turned over to the town on May 30, 1932 the Eno Memorial Hall. In it are housed the town offices, Town Clerk's office, vaults for town and probate records, offices for the Superintendent of Schools, a court room and a large assembly hall with a moving picture booth, gallery, orchestra pit, stage, and seating capacity for about six hundred persons. The D. A. R. have a beautiful chapter room and kitchenette, the Girl Scouts have an assembly room and the Historical Society has two display rooms. The basement contains a large banquet hall and kitchen.

No gift could have served better the community in which Mrs. Wood was born and lived, or have done more to preserve her memory throughout future Simsbury history than the erection of this edifice. Always a person of friendly instincts and generous nature, nevertheless her firmness of character and determined purpose made her an outstanding woman of her day and an example of old-time womanhood. Her beautiful home, Eaglewood, set in the midst of her beloved woods, was always a mecca every Fourth of July for the townspeople who flocked to greet her and share the hospitality of the band concert, dancing and ice cream. Her teas and receptions, given at the old Bartlett Tower in Tariffville, were famous affairs. The appearance of Mrs. Wood in Simsbury, after her winters spent in the diplomatic life of Washington, was always a welcome sight to her many friends and neighbors. Her loyal support of the Congregational Church and her certain presence there at Sunday worship was a joy and inspiration to many. Her absence is greatly felt in this community.

TARIFFVILLE MANUFACTURES

The water power of the Farmington River at the gap in the Talcott Mountain at Tariffville was early recognized by the settlers, who called the original location the "Falls." The earliest industry there was probably a sawmill. In 1812 Messrs. Allyn and Phelps erected a works for the manufacture of iron wire on the present site of the Tariffville Lace Company factory. Connected with it was a card factory called

Allyn, Johnson & Co., at first making hand cards, then later, machine cards.

In 1827 the New England Carpet Company was established by H. K. Knight but within a few years the property passed into the hands of the "Tariffville Manufacturing Company." Many buildings were built and canals and dams constructed to make use of the water power. Until around 1840 the chief business of the company was the manufacture of carpets but a second mill was erected to make coarse woolen cloth. By 1845 the carpet department employed about 300 hands and made yearly about 300,000 yards of carpetings called fine, superfine, three-ply and Venetian, which bore a high reputation and were fully equal to imported fabrics of similar kinds. Shortly after, Brussels carpet was made. The woolen mill employed 150 workers and made 600,000 yards of tweeds and jeans annually.

The Hartford Carpet Company succeeded these works and operated them until a fire destroyed everything in 1867. Apparently the company was anxious to rebuild provided they could obtain some sort of tax concessions from the town for a limited period to enable them to get fully established again. This the Simsbury taxpayers refused to grant and the company moved to Thompsonville, becoming part of the large and prosperous Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Company, recently the Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Co. Since that event the importance of Tariffville as a manufacturing site has dwindled in prestige.

There next ensued a series of varied manufactures. The Connecticut Screw Co. under Ezra Clark of Hartford put up some of the present buildings to make wood screws with flat points. It eventually failed. In 1880 the Hartford Cutlery Co. utilized the site and, after its failure, it was taken over by the Auer, later Hartford Silk Co. This company was doing nicely when its treasurer and superintendent absconded to Canada with its funds in 1886. An English concern from Beeston, England bought the property in 1891 and sent over a Mr. Frank Wilkinson to establish the manufacture of Nottingham lace. This eventually failed and Frederic W. Jones, formerly of the Wilkinson company, organized the Tariffville Lace Company in 1899. This company continued operation till 1910 at which time it sold its lace machinery and installed oxygen and hydrogen-making equipment, leasing the manufacture to the Tariffville Oxygen and Chemical Co. This lease was bought out by the International Oxygen Co. of Newark in 1928

and then sold to the Linde Air Products Co. in 1931. With the continuance of the present business depression it appeared uneconomical to utilize the plant further, without heavy expenditures for modernization, and it was closed down. The buildings and site are still owned by the Tariffville Lace Company and kept in repair by Mr. A. W. Burrows of North Bloomfield. The chief stockholder was Horace Belden, who, up until his recent death, entertained plans for reviving the industrial importance of the valuable water-power there, which has a potential production of five hundred horsepower. At the present time the Lace Company is no more than a real estate holding company managing a group of forty tenements and the idle plant.

The Hartford Electric Light Company has operated a hydroelectric plant just above Spoonville since 1896. The first use of aluminum for long distance electric transmission in America was in the transmission line to Hartford built in 1896. It is expected that the plant will be gradually closed down in the next few years as modern steam plants can produce cheaper electricity and the company can acquire surplus current through exchange with other New England and New York State utilities at a cheaper rate than the Tariffville station can produce.

THE SIMSBURY WATER CO. AND THE VILLAGE WATER CO. OF SIMSBURY

The earliest community water besides the usual wells, which almost every homelot had, was provided by a project commenced early in the nineteenth century. Contracts were let for supplying logs which were bored by horse power and laid end-to-end, conveying water from a spring on Branch (or Grimes) Brook a mile and a half to the houses on Hopmeadow Street. The pine logs soon burst and decayed and the enterprise failed.

In 1868 an act was passed incorporating "The Simsbury Water Company". By 1872 water was being supplied to stockholders on a basis of one three-quarter inch connection for every five hundred dollars' worth of stock. The water was taken at first from a reservoir on Branch Brook and later from the running brook above. It was led through iron pipes along the same route as the old log pipes of several decades previous. The leading spirit in the enterprise was Horace Belden and at his death his management had conserved the tidy sum of some twenty thousand dollars, the income from which is used to

maintain the system. The present control of the company is in the estate of the late George P. McLean. Many people in Hop Meadow still use the water but supplementary connections are gradually being made with the Village Water Company. The present General Manager is Mr. E. A. Betts.

Owing to the inadequacy of the old water supply both as to pressure and amount, it became necessary to organize a company with an adequate financial structure to carry out the new construction of dams and pipe lines required by the growth of modern Simsbury. The Village Water Company of Simsbury was organized, therefore, by act of the State Legislature in April 1903. The leading spirit in the enterprise was Lemuel Stoughton Ellsworth. The original incorporators were George P. McLean, Lemuel S. Ellsworth, William H. Whitehead and Joseph R. Ensign. These men, with the addition of A. T. Pattison, comprised the first directorate and L. S. Ellsworth was the first president. The management of the company in the ensuing years has been in the hands of public-spirited citizens who have given freely of their time and services without remuneration. A small dividend is paid the stockholders in return for the use of their capital.

The first dam and reservoir was constructed by T. H. McKenzie in 1903 at West Simsbury on Stratton Brook and was called the Stoddard Reservoir. It has a capacity of 1,600,000 gallons. The auxiliary Case reservoir was built about 1913. In 1922 the company bought out the West Simsbury Water Company and built a large dam and reservoir of 40,000,000 gallons capacity near the source of Hop Brook. The engineers on this work were Buck and Sheldon of Hartford. A modern aeration, filtration and chlorination plant is equipped for treating the water in accordance with state requirements. The quality of the water is notably pure and sweet. The customers of the Village Water Co. are on the meter system.

The company grosses approximately \$18,000 annually from which expenses, interest and dividends are taken resulting in a small loss each year. Total assets amount to \$255,000 of which the capital stock is \$117,000. In 1934 the company's mains were extended south from Hazel Meadow to Weatogue.

The present directors and officers are: H. E. Ellsworth, Pres.; J. E. Ellsworth, Clerk; J. R. Ensign, Vice Pres.; G. S. Hart; O. P. Case; C. R. Seymour, Treas.

SIMSBURY ELECTRIC CO.

Following the development of electric power, which first occurred locally at Tariffville in 1896, a few enterprising Simsbury people formed the Simsbury Electric Co., which was incorporated by act of the Legislature on May 24, 1899. The original incorporators were L. S. Ellsworth, R. H. Ensign, J. R. Ensign, F. W. Jones and A. T. Pattison. Among these men and a few others the initial capitalization of five thousand dollars was raised in 1900 and the first officers elected, namely: L. S. Ellsworth, Pres.; W. H. Whitehead, Vice Pres.; A. T. Pattison, Sec'y; and J. R. Ensign, Treas. An electric generating plant was authorized and a water wheel utilized in the east or stone portion of the present gristmill, supplemented by an Otto gas engine. The first dividend was declared in 1902. The Ensign-Bickford Co. gradually began to generate electric power and arrangements were made with them to provide electric current. In recent years the Simsbury Electric Co. has become solely a distribution system taking its current under contract with The Ensign-Bickford Co.

The original cost of the electric system was less than \$5,000. The first new money required was in 1911 when the capitalization was increased to \$7,500. Since then by successive increases it reached \$60,000 in 1932, its present status. The plant account totals almost \$200,000 at the present writing. Over 1,150,000 kilowatt hours of current were sold in 1934 as against 52,000 in 1914. The company has a distinguished record for fair dealings with its customers having reduced its average lighting rate from 15 cents to less than 5½ cents per kilowatt hour.

In 1931 an attractive brick office building was erected just east of the Simsbury Bank & Trust Company at a cost of \$20,000. The present directors and officers are: C. A. Buerman, Treas.; Robert Darling, Pres.; Robert E. Darling, Sec'y; J. R. Ensign, G. E. Pattison.

THE SIMSBURY BANK AND TRUST CO.

This institution was conceived by the late William Woods Chandler, who felt that in the growing community of Simsbury there should be local facilities for business and banking transactions. Prior to this time all banking business had been done in Hartford. The original incorporators in May 1916 were the first directors when the bank opened on Dec. 1, 1917: J. W. Alsop, W. W. Chandler, F. M. Colton,

J. F. Cullman, Jr., W. L. Cushing, R. Darling, S. W. Edwards, H. E. Ellsworth, R. B. Eno, E. A. Hoskins, A. T. Pattison, O. D. Tuller, A. J. Welch, S. T. Welden and Dr. C. M. Wooster. The original capitalization was \$25,000 and surplus was \$12,500. These items are \$125,000 and \$75,000 respectively today. At the opening of the institution total deposits were \$72,000 and total assets amounted to \$109,000. At the end of 1934 these items were \$1,600,000 and \$1,868,000 respectively.

The bank conducts commercial banking, a savings department and a trust department. The first president was W. Woods Chandler, who was succeeded soon after his death in 1932 by the present incumbent, George E. Pattison. The present officers are: George E. Pattison, Pres. and Treas.; Oliver D. Tuller, Vice Pres.; Elbert E. Potter, Sec'y and Ass't Treas.; and Otho C. Williams, Ass't Sec'y. The present directorate of fifteen leading citizens gives representation on the board for all types of local interests and enterprises.

INNS AND TAVERNS

The first quarter of the nineteenth century saw the rapid growth of taverns, as evidenced by the old tax lists which enumerate over a dozen in Simsbury at that time. In the second quarter of the century a further impetus was given to tavern-keeping by the building of the canal. Those places fortunate enough to be situated along its route shared in the boom which occurred. Mention has already been made of the Captain Elisha Phelps Tavern in Hop Meadow, which at that time received the name of "The Canal Hotel." With the coming of the railroads, communication with the outside world became easier and the great days of the tavern and early hotel soon drew to a close.

One of the first and most popular commercial hotels in Simsbury township was the Thurston House in Tariffville, which had its hey-day during the period of Tariffville's great industrial importance. It originally stood on the northwest corner at the junction of Winthrop and Tunxis Street but burned down about 1890.

The second great Tariffville hostelry was the Tunxis House, which has had a checkered career since it was built some sixty years ago. About 1920 it ceased to operate and has been rented for lodgings ever since. It stands midway of the block fronting on Tunxis Street between Winthrop and Elm Street.

One of the early Simsbury commercial hotels was the Hop Meadow House run by Mrs. Ralph Case. Formerly the Simsbury Academy, it stood just west of the present Welden Building and burned down in 1900. Its later successor was the Maple Tree Inn built about 1897 by the late Mrs. Julia A. Holcomb and operated by her until a few years after the close of the World War. Prior to the Inn, Mrs. Holcomb maintained lodgers and boarders in the old Clark Building, which stood where the present bank now stands. With the arrival of the automobile and good roads the major usefulness of the commercial country hotel passed. The Maple Tree Inn stands behind the business block south of the Methodist Church.

Our day has seen the opening of tea rooms, lunch rooms, "hot dog" stands and other popular places for the dispensing of food and drinks. One of the most noted hosteries for visitors and motorists in all New England is the Pettibone Tavern in Weatogue on the College Highway. Situated on the site of a famous tavern of an earlier day run anciently by one of the noted Pettibone family, it is tastefully arranged today in the colonial manner and provides a welcome atmosphere for many who seek to obtain comfortable lodgings in a delightful, quaint, New England farmhouse. It is operated by Mrs. Rhoda S. Tilney.

The former estate of Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge was taken over and has been run by Miss Gladys Rugg as the Simsbury Manor. It is beautifully situated in the midst of lovely grounds and gardens on a terrace overlooking the Farmington Valley at Weatogue. Entrance is from the College Highway just south of Weatogue center.

THE COUNTRY STORE

The successor to the Yankee tin-peddler, the last one of whom in this vicinity was the late Lucius W. Bigelow, was the general store of rural fame. The only one of its kind that has withstood the vicissitudes of time and changing fortunes is the present firm of Pattison & Company situated opposite the Simsbury Free Library. In 1851 Judson Wilcox, who lived in the small west section of the present store, commenced the business of selling dry goods, groceries, crockery, boots, shoes and Yankee notions. The firm prospered and grew and Mr. Wilcox was succeeded by his son-in-law, the late Alexander T. Pattison, who operated the store as Wilcox & Company. He incorpo-

rated it as the present Pattison & Company a few years before his death. Besides groceries and dry goods, the firm sells lumber, coal, oil and building materials.

Another old firm is that of Welden's Store situated in the Welden Building west of the old railroad station. The present store, which deals in hardware and farm supplies, is operated by William B. Welden, a nephew of its founder, Samuel T. Welden.

In recent years many new local stores have been opened including pharmacies, chain grocery stores, meat markets, electrical stores, cleaning establishments, tailors, and many others.

Among the professions in town today are several able doctors including a dentist, also lawyers and insurance and real estate firms.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The Abigail Phelps Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on Nov. 11, 1893 and named for Abigail Pettibone Phelps, who lived from 1706 to 1787. She was the granddaughter of John Pettibone, founder of the Pettibone family in America and one of the first to whom land was granted in Simsbury. The Pettibones were a noted family contributing no less than seventeen of their membership to the Revolutionary cause. All three sons of Abigail Pettibone Phelps were officers in the Revolution, namely: Captain David Phelps, Captain Elisha Phelps and General Noah Phelps. The charter members of the Simsbury chapter were: Mrs. Julia Mather Croft, Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood, Mrs. John C. E. Humphrey, Miss Mary Helen Humphrey, Mrs. Nellie Goodrich Eno, Mrs. Martha Goodrich Eno, Mrs. Harriette Phelps Eno, Mrs. Mary Phelps Ensign, Miss Mary Cordelia Eno, Mrs. Frances Eno Welch, Mrs. Juliette Goodrich McLean, Mrs. Susan Ensign Morse, Mrs. Mary Seymour Toy, Mrs. Susan Monroe Stowe, Mrs. Mary Phelps Robbins and Miss Mary Winslow.

There have been four Regents: Mrs. Julia Mather Croft, 1893-1896; Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood, 1896-1902; Mrs. Nellie Goodrich Eno, 1902-1935; and Miss Julia E. Pattison, the present Regent.

Among the many worthwhile things initiated by the local chapter are: the cleaning and re-lettering of old stones in the Hop Meadow Cemetery, the placing of D. A. R. flags on the graves of Revolutionary



THE ENO MEMORIAL HALL. A gift to the Town of Simsbury by Antoinette Eno Wood in memory
of her parents, Amos R. Eno and Lucy J. Phelps. Dedicated May 30, 1932.

War soldiers on Memorial Day, the placing of permanent markers on Revolutionary graves, the publication of Dr. Barber's "History of Simsbury," the contribution of funds for the endowment of the Oliver Ellsworth homestead in Windsor and the formation of the Simsbury Historical Society. The recent marking of old homes, brooks and spots of historic interest in Simsbury in connection with the Connecticut Tercentenary is one of their projects.

THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Simsbury chapter of this organization was founded by Charles O. Ditors and established in 1921 as the Tomalonis-Hall Post No. 84 of the American Legion. It was named in honor of Joseph Tomalonis, Jr., a private in Company E, 102nd U. S. Infantry, and Private George L. Hall, Headquarters Company, 102nd U. S. Infantry. These two men were the first of those who enlisted from Simsbury to be killed in action during the World War.

The charter members were: R. E. Curtiss, D. F. Daly, C. O. Ditors, E. W. Ditors, E. F. Farnham, M. J. Genlot, E. J. Greene, S. R. Hall, M. C. Hayes, J. H. Humphrey, E. Jones, A. D. Martin, P. L. Nielson, J. B. Shea and J. B. Welch. The first commander was Lieut. Elmer F. Farnham. Officers change yearly. The present membership is now sixty-two.

A Legion Hall was erected on West Street in 1922-23 on land given to the Post by Senator George P. McLean. Money was raised by the members and citizens for the building, which now stands free and clear of debt. The Post has always taken an unusually broad stand on matters of general interest to the community and the country at large, motivated, no doubt, by the excellent preamble to the American Legion Constitution, which reads as follows:

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of the Post was chartered in September 1923 and organized under the leadership of its first president, Mrs. Lillian B. Farren. It shares the Legion Hall with the Post. The membership comprises the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of Legion members and is dedicated to the self-same principles as is the American Legion.

THE SIMSBURY CLUB AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

About the year 1905 a group of boys associated themselves under the Rev. Mr. Sheldon for social and recreational purposes. The out-growth of this movement was the Simsbury Club, which has had a varied but continuous history since that time. Under the presidency of Henry E. Ellsworth it sponsored amateur basketball and a baseball team, both of which provided athletic experience and enjoyment for all the young men of the town. Eventually professionalism crept into the athletic activities of the Club particularly the basketball and upon the withdrawal of the amateur element it almost became defunct. A group of public-spirited citizens, encouraged chiefly by Mr. George E. Pattison and others who believed the town should support amateur athletics, resurrected the Simsbury Club in late years and promoted a Simsbury baseball team. Finally in December 1934 quarters for reading, pool, cards and other activities were obtained in the business block opposite to the Simsbury Bank & Trust Co. Present membership totals one hundred and forty-one. The purpose of the Club is to provide social and athletic facilities for all the men in town regardless of creed, politics, or social status. Active membership is a nominal two dollars a year made possible by a generous contributing membership. A strong board of prominent townspeople is endeavoring to guide the young men in running the club on a high plane.

In recent years the Simsbury Recreation Committee, financed by a few interested citizens, has provided leadership for such worthy endeavors as the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, basketball teams, baseball teams and other sports. The various men identified with the public schools have taken an active part in this work. There are over three hundred young people from Simsbury and Tariffville participating in these activities, which are made possible by the annual contributions of citizens. In these trying days of unemployment and lowered

social morale the encouragement of sports and kindred recreation is of paramount interest and worthy of wholehearted community support.

GEOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY

The geology and natural history of the Simsbury region has been briefly described in the first chapter of this history. For detailed information reference can be made to various bulletins of the State Geological and Natural History Survey. The following notes were supplied by W. E. Britton of New Haven, superintendent of the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey:

BOTANY

"In regard to the botany of the region, I find mentioned in the bulletins of the Survey, certain plants, of which I send you a list of those that are not generally common and for which localities are given in the list. Of course, all the common plants occur in Simsbury as well as elsewhere. I believe, however, that Simsbury has not been so well covered in the collections of the Connecticut Botanical Society, as have many other towns and localities. I believe that if your committee would examine both the herbarium and mineral collection of the late Irving Holcomb, many additional local records would be obtained. I do not know what disposition has been made of Mr. Irving Holcomb's collections, but no doubt you can learn by telephoning to Ernest Holcomb, who now lives on the old place in West Granby."

Botany (See State Geol. & Nat. Hist. Survey, Buls. No. 14 & 48)

Carduus acanthoides L. In the state only from Salisbury and Simsbury.

Cystopteris bulbifera (L.) Bernh. Bladder Fern. Simsbury.

Gerardia paupercula (Gray) Britton.

Habenaria bracteata (Willd.) R. Br. Fringed Orchis.

Hypericum ascyron L. Great St. John's wort.

Lygodium palmatum (Bernh.) L. Climbing fern, Hartford fern.

Oryzopsis pungeus (Torr.) Hitchc.

Polygonum careyi Olney. Simsbury.

Polygonum acre var. *leptostachyum* Meisw.

Silene stellata (L.) Ait L. Starry campion, four-leaved campion.

Solidago hispida Moehl.

Utricularia geminiscapa Benj.

Vaccinium oxycoccus L. Small cranberry.

MINERALS

Minerals (See State Geol. & Nat. Hist. Survey, Bul. No. 51)

Barite (heavy spar, barytes) with copper minerals in trap rock quarries such as at Rocky Hill and Simsbury, Higley mine, Granby.

Bornite (peacock ore, purple copper ore, etc.) "common as small masses and grains at the copper mine northeast of Bristol, at the Granby and Simsbury copper mines."

Calcite (calc spar, calcareous spar) in copper mines Simsbury and Granby. Chabazite. Simsbury.

Chalcocite (copper glance, redruthite) is found at Granby and Simsbury.

Copper as small irregular masses with other copper minerals in Simsbury and Granby.

Cuprite (red copper ore). Newgate Mine, Granby.

Datolite (datolith) fine large crystals at Tariffville.

Malachite (green copper ore) common at all the Connecticut copper mines. Found at Granby, Simsbury, etc.

SIMSBURY STATE FOREST

A freshly cut-over and barren tract of land totalling one hundred and thirty acres was purchased by the state in 1908 and called the Simsbury State Forest. In the succeeding years it has been reforested with various species of pine but a forest fire destroyed a considerable portion about 1925. Now that train travel has been discontinued over the old Central New England track, safer conditions prevail and the land, having been replanted, is again on the way to establishing forest conditions. Throughout this development period the State Forest Commission was assisted by Mrs. Antoinette Eno Wood.

Recently with the availability of federal relief funds a recreational development has been undertaken in the area. The American Legion, assisted by funds subscribed by citizens, arranged to have a swimming pool opened up. A small dam was built on Stratton Brook and a large pool called Massaco Pond created. Access is by a road running west from the Simsbury-Unionville highway. The swimming facilities and the development of the area as a picnic ground are attractive additions to our town. The forest ranger is Milton C. Stocking.

TRANSPORTATION AND ROADS

Canals and railroads have been dealt with in other pages of this book. Mention should be made of the bicycle, the automobile and the passing of the old livery stable and hitching post. The first bicycles to come to town were probably owned by the grandsons of Amos R. Eno, Gifford and Amos Pinchot. They were little more than wooden-wheeled velocipedes propelled by pushing with the feet on the ground. Following this, Noah Phelps of East Weatogue and later Joseph R. Ensign owned high-wheeled bicycles propelled by pedals attached to the large front wheel. Soon afterwards, Charles B. Holcomb of Tariffville purchased a "Star" bicycle having the high wheel in back. This he used in travelling back and forth from Simsbury where he was organist in the Congregational Church for many years.

The first "safety" or modern bicycle, a clumsy affair propelled by a chain and sprocket, was a "Victor" owned by William T. Weed, son of J. T. Weed for many years proprietor of a wagon and blacksmith shop on Hopmeadow St. Popular interest soon brought many bicycles of this type to town, and by 1890 a bicycle club was formed to promote the sport. Throughout the town, and in fact most of New England, main highways were paralleled by bicycle paths. A favorite week-end pastime was the "century run," which consisted of a hundred mile tour by the club members in a group.

Probably the first automobile in town was owned and operated by Mr. Joseph R. Ensign in 1900. This was an Oldsmobile with a single cylinder engine under the seat, tiller steering and a planetary transmission. There were no doors or windshields and it was strictly a "horseless buggy." Other early cars were owned by William Ketchin, Ariel Mitchelson, and Dr. Wooster in Tariffville and E. A. Barton, D. Stuart Dodge and Mr. Henry E. Ellsworth of Simsbury.

With the advent of the automobile the old livery stable very soon became obsolete and in its place today is the garage and gasoline filling station. Occasionally an old hitching-post or carriage stepping-stone remains to recall the days of the horse and buggy. The first owners had to cope with the resentment of many a farmer whose horse, unaccustomed to the noise of these new vehicles, would bolt wildly down the country lane at their approach. A typical incident illus-

trating this feeling is told of a certain farmer who lived over on Duncaster Road, Bloomfield. Early roads were notoriously muddy in rainy weather and equally dusty in dry weather and when a passing motorist raised clouds of dust in the face of the good Duncaster man as he drove along proudly behind a pair of spanking bays his resentment against autos knew no bounds. Determined to have revenge upon the gay young automobilist of Hop Meadow he prepared a large, birch brush drag. Choosing a particularly dry, windy, dusty day he hitched this drag behind his best and fastest carriage horses and proceeding to Simsbury, raced them furiously up and down Hopmeadow Street raising as much dust as he could, much to the amusement of the inhabitants.

The question of the frightful condition of the unimproved country roads and bridges was soon agitated by the increasing numbers of motorists. The First Selectman of the town at that time was William H. Whitehead. He took a forward-looking point of view and under his administration the various iron bridges across the river were built. He also constructed the first genuine "McAdam" road on the highway running to Tariffville just north of the Terry's Plain bridge about 1905. Since his time roads have been widened and improved until the country road of the past is almost an extinct affair.

From the first half dozen autos prior to 1905, the growth of motor vehicles owned and operated in this community has been so phenomenal that today there are one thousand and twenty-five automotive vehicles listed on the last tax list.

The roar of the aeroplane is commonly heard overhead nowadays but as yet no person owns and operates one in our township and Simsbury has not had to face the inevitable problem of the local flying field or airport.

TOBACCO CULTIVATION

For many years the Farmington Valley has been second only to the Connecticut Valley as a tobacco raising section. In recent times the advent of shade tobacco has greatly increased its importance. The first experiments in growing under cloth were conducted in 1890 by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. They were assisted by Mr. Marcus A. Floyd, who was sent to Granby by the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of co-operating in an attempt

to produce a cigar wrapper to compete with the imported Sumatra leaf, which was rapidly encroaching on the Connecticut trade. The attempt was made to simulate the climatic conditions of the Island of Sumatra by retaining a high, humid temperature under a cloth tent. Very naturally Sumatra seed was selected and at first the experiment seemed to be a success, with the result that by 1896 there were 645 acres under cultivation in Connecticut. Owing, however, to improper methods of curing and other difficulties, it was soon found that cigars wrapped with shade-grown Sumatra leaf would not withstand the rough handling required by those who carried cigars in their pockets. The project seemed about to fail when it was saved by chance. A prominent tobacco grower of Tariffville, Mr. Joseph Mitchelson, happened to be on a visit to Havana, Cuba, where he met and discussed the pending experiment with some Cuban growers, who gave him a sample of Cuban seed with the suggestion that its cultivation be tried under cloth. He brought it home and for a time thought little of it, but the next spring he recalled the incident and gave the seed to Mr. Floyd for test. To the surprise and delight of all, it proved to have the fine quality of Sumatra leaf but with much more toughness and elasticity after curing. The next year ten acres were grown and the success of the undertaking was assured. In 1901 The Connecticut Tobacco Corporation was formed and Mr. Floyd was engaged as its manager. Others became interested and soon shade tobacco cultivation took on the aspect of a boom. As the new method required a capital outlay of about seven hundred dollars an acre, it was obvious that it was a subject for corporate rather than private effort. Soon the American Sumatra Tobacco Company started a large plantation in Meadow Plain. Cullman Brothers commenced another in Terry's Plain, which was afterwards moved to Firetown, and The Ketchin Tobacco Company of Tariffville operated one in Hoskins Station. Other early growers were Ariel Mitchelson, William J. Hayes, Alexander T. Pattison and many others with smaller acreage. The plant of The Connecticut Tobacco Corporation at Floydville, Granby, was afterwards bought by the American Sumatra Tobacco Company and is still operated in addition to their Meadow Plain plantation and others elsewhere.

In recent years, owing to a surplus of tobacco, acreage has been much reduced and its cultivation has been hard hit. There are still large areas grown, however, and the great fields covered with billow-

ing cloth tents and dotted with huge curing sheds are a familiar sight in our countryside.

Vacant tobacco fields on the Cullman plantation in Firetown were put to a unique use in the fall of 1934. Owing to the devastating drought and the resulting scarcity of grass in the great cattle grazing region of the West, cattle were sent east to be pastured. Many of them were placed on the above mentioned farm.

X

A Bibliography Pertaining to Simsbury History.

This bibliography does not presume to be complete but is offered as a starting point for those who wish to delve into the history not only of politics and wars but also of the men and manners of Ancient Simsbury. Many of the items listed have a collector's value owing to their scarcity, many of them may be found in our local Library and others can be referred to only in such larger institutions as the State Library in Hartford and the Yale University Library in New Haven. A true and complete bibliography of Simsburyana can be compiled in the future only if the townspeople and all others interested call unusual items to the attention of their local Library and Historical Society.

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